

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Home thoughts
Homes are news.
Tomorrow The Times
begins an enlarged
Residential Property
feature dealing with
houses at home and
abroad, trends in the
market, and a guide to
changing prices.

Top and bottom
Spectrum on the
successes and failures of
Sunset Strip



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time to reach celebrity

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After Thatcher: Ian
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meeting

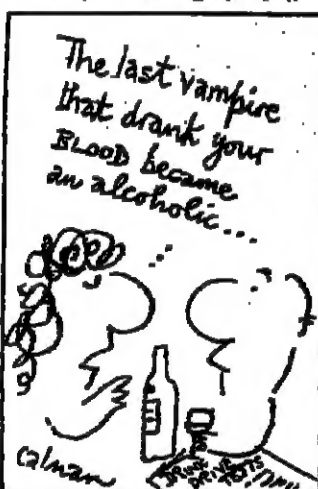
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Queen sympathizes with tragedy of Palestinian people

From Christopher Walker, Amman

The Queen, surrounded by the tightest security seen in her 31 years on the throne and holding a rolled umbrella against the unseasonable desert rain, yesterday began a state visit to Jordan which has plunged her into the centre of the bitter rivalries splitting the Arab world into radical and moderate camps.

Jordan used the symbolic occasion to issue a plea to the British Government through Mr Hani Tabbara, its ambassador in London, to try to balance the pro-Israel policy of the United States and launch a fresh EEC initiative to solve the Middle East crisis.

Fierce-looking Beduin guards in a convoy of open Land Rovers, each fitted back and front with 50mm Browning machine guns, shielded the royal cavalcade as it raced from the airport to the heavily guarded hillside palace in Amman where the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will stay until tomorrow, when they travel to the ancient Nabataean city of Petra.

Every 73 yards along the nearly deserted route stood a Jordanian soldier with an automatic rifle, while hundreds of plain clothes security men kept watch for any attack by Syrian-backed Palestinians who have vowed to disrupt the visit as part of their campaign to destabilize the moderate Government of King Hussein.

The Queen's TriStar, the Molly McGredy Rose, has taken a deliberately circuitous route from an RAF base in Cyprus to avoid the dangers of flying over Syrian air space and minimize the chances of attack by heat-seeking missiles.

President Assad's Govern-

nment in Damascus is the paymaster of the Palestinian splinter group led by Abu Mufid, which has planted three bombs in Amman over the past 72 hours.

The omnipresent security curtain intensified since last Saturday's explosion at the Intercontinental Hotel, has drastically reduced the Queen's chances of mingling with ordinary Jordanians, known as one of the most hospitable people in the Middle East and more than 60 per cent of whom are of Palestinian origin. It has also severely restricted access to the Queen by the scores of British photographers.

As the royal plane touched down on the dot of noon, the white anti-missile devices newly attached to the wings were clearly visible. The Queen, in a camellia pink wool coat and a small white straw hat, looked remarkably unflustered by the risks she is taking as she shook hands with the Sandhurst-trained King, noted for his affection for Britain where he was educated at Harrow.

The Hashemite monarch, accompanied by his young American-born fourth wife, Queen Noor, was dressed in military uniform with the traditional red-and-white Arab keffiyeh head-dress. There were broad smiles as he and the Queen greeted each other warmly to open a visit returning an invitation issued 18 years ago.

To the relief of the dark-suited Buckingham Palace security men deputed to accompany the Queen at every moment of her stay in Jordan, which ends on Friday, the only explosions to be heard at the meticulous airport ceremony -

complete with Arab beguile band and a reception party which included five Jordanian princes and six princesses - was the 21-cannon salute.

Also present were members of the new Jordanian government which has more Palestinian ministers than any previous Cabinet, and Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who was a last-minute replacement for Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary who had to travel instead to an EEC meeting in Brussels.

Giving her first official speech at a glittering state banquet last night at the Basman palace, the Queen showed no inclination to shy away from the central issues in the Middle East and spoke of "the tragedy which has befallen the Palestinian people", which afflicted no country more than Jordan.

She was fulsome in her praise for the role being played in the region by King Hussein which has put him at loggerheads with the radical Arab states. "The world has been deeply impressed by your efforts in the face of so many discouragements and setbacks, to achieve a negotiated settlement of the problems of the Middle East."

Both the Queen and King Hussein politely avoided any reference to the grave security problems surrounding the visit, but the Queen told her host who came to the throne the same year she did, that it had been her lifelong ambition to visit Jordan.

After a private lunch and a visit to the Jordanian Queen Mother, the Queen hosted a garden party for 1,000 British residents in Jordan.



Royal allies: The Queen and King Hussein meet on the tarmac at Amman airport at the start of the state visit (More photographs, back page).

Tisdall tells why she did it

By Staff Reporters

Sarah Tisdall, the Foreign Office clerk imprisoned for six months for leaking secret government documents on cruise missiles to *The Guardian* yesterday lodged an appeal against her sentence.

Her solicitor, Mr Christopher Murray, said she would not be applying for bail pending appeal.

Normally appeals take about four months, which is the time Miss Tisdall could expect to serve if she is given the customary one-third remission for good behaviour. But Mr Murray said he hoped the case would be speeded up.

Her father, Dr Michael Tisdall, said in a BBC television interview the move was "a light at the end of the tunnel".

Miss Tisdall, aged 23, was convicted at the Central Criminal Court last Friday after pleading guilty to a breach of section two of the Official Secrets Act. The judge said she was being punished as a warning to others.

Last night on television, Miss Tisdall spoke for the first time about her reasons for leaking a private memorandum about the arrival of cruise missiles at Greenham Common.

The memorandum was sent by the Defence Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, at the Foreign Office where Miss Tisdall, a £6,000 a year clerical officer, worked. It was her job to photocopy confidential correspondence.

Speaking on the Granada programme, *World in Action*, in an interview before her trial cleared by her own and the television company's lawyers, she said she read the Hesketh memorandum. "Well, I felt it was immoral, and that the Secretary of State, Defence, who was accountable to Parliament, had decided he was not going to be accountable to Parliament on that particular day, that the cruise missiles arrived."

"He was going to wait until after they were here, and at the end of his allotted question time tell House that they were here, and then get up and leave before the Opposition had time to react in the House, and go off to Greenham" to have his photograph taken."

Interviewer: He was going to evade proper parliamentary scrutiny?

Miss Tisdall: Yes he was.

Interviewer: Her decision was swift. She ran off a spare photocopy and put it with another confidential memo in an envelope addressed to the political editor of *The Guardian*. She then walked on her own up to Farringham Road and gave it anonymously to the newspaper's mail collection point.

Interviewer: Why did you take it to *The Guardian* particularly?

Miss Tisdall: Because there was nowhere else to take it. *The Guardian* is the paper I read most of the time. I sometimes read *The Times* as well. I find *The Times* and the *Telegraph* quite right wing, and *The Guardian* is really the only left of centre, middle of the road type sort of newspaper that comes out.

Continued on back page, col 2

Record breaker is racing to new life

By David Miller

Chief Sports Writer

Zola Budd, the world record-breaking 17-year-old South African runner, applied yesterday at a Croydon Immigration office for the British passport which would enable her to run in the Olympic Games this summer. She had arrived in Britain on Saturday, after a secret journey via Switzerland.

This surprising move was made only a few days after she had said categorically that she would not be leaving her history and political science courses at Orange Free State University in Bloemfontein. A British newspaper has assisted her flight arrangements and passport application, which, in conjunction with the commercial backing of Mark McCormack's International Management Group, could lead to a career worth hundreds of thousands of pounds.

A mere 5ft 2in tall and weighing only 6st, Miss Budd has unofficially broken the 5,000 metres world record by seven seconds - unrecognized by the International Federation - and is the fastest ever under-19 for 3,000 and 1,500 metres. Both her father and grandfather - a printer from South London - have British passports, thus making her technically eligible for one. Dick Palmer, the secretary of the British Olympic Association, said yesterday that her Olympic eligibility would be studied in due course.

While competing in South Africa she was excluded from international competition by the worldwide boycott, which the 1,500 metres record-breaker Sydney Maree and the national 800 metres champion Freddie Williams have escaped by taking up residence at American universities.

So far neither the British Amateur Athletic Board nor the Women's Amateur Athletics Association have been contacted by Miss Budd or her parents. Professor Charles



Barfoot Budd: A potential star of the Olympics.

Nieuwoudt, president of the South African Athletics Union, said yesterday that not even close members of her family knew she was leaving, but he thought few people would criticize her decision. "South Africa is losing athletes all the time because of political problems," he said. "Everyone here now feels as if they have lost someone very close to them."

The advocate without a wig was Mr Scargill

By Alan Hamilton

"You are Mr Scargill?" Sir Robert Megarry inquired yesterday from the great height of his judicial bench of the familiar figure in the wall of his court below. The familiar figure, uncertain of protocol, semi-rose to the position of a half-open penknife. "Yes my lord."

It was merely a precaution, symbolic of the care with which the High Court Chancery Division hears its cases. Mr Megarry, the president of the National Union of Mineworkers, was instantly identifiable as the one not wearing the wig, in defiance of newspaper cartoonists' obsession with the presidential hair.

Mr Sam Stammer, QC, for the plaintiffs, a rotund, panting junior Rumpole figure with

thick grey hair fighting to escape from under his wig, introduced himself breezily to his adversary and asked solicitously if Mr Scargill had all the documents. Mr Scargill did, in piles of smart blue folders on the floor at the feet of his sole assistant, a union solicitor.

Mr Scargill, who is no stranger to advocacy of a more populist kind, has chosen to do without counsel in his defence of the action brought by the miners' pension fund, of which his union is a joint trustee with the National Coal Board.

The union trustees want the fund to stop investing overseas, and in oil, gas and other energy industries which compete with coal. The fund's managers have brought the action to restrain the union trustees from block-

ing the fund's forward investment plans, which they have been doing for nearly two years in an effort to change the investment policy.

With a fine regard for propriety, the judge opened the proceedings with a declaration of interest.

I have got a holding in an English oil company, and some overseas shares," Sir Robert said. "I trust you have no objection." Mr Scargill half-smiled. "I have no objection as long as you are not a member of the National Union of Mineworkers, my lord." Twisting his toothbrush moustache, Sir Robert readily gave that assurance.

Mindful of other events in the coalfields, Sir Robert then urged Mr Megarry friend the

Breath-test rules changed

Drivers given second chance

By Rupert Morris

40 micrograms per 100 millilitres of blood. The Home Office decision was welcomed by the Automobile Association and the Royal Automobile Club, both of which had expressed doubts about the Intoximeter.

Mr Hurd said: "The machines have enabled an essential part of the road safety law to be enforced more simply, and police to cope with a larger number of offenders than if we had continued with the old and somewhat cumbersome procedures."

"Drunken driving is a serious menace to the public, and we need to have the most effective means available to deal with it. Public confidence in these machines is therefore essential."

In the Court of Appeal yesterday, the *Daily Express*

was given permission to publish confidential documents handed to the newspaper by two former employees of Lion Laboratories, of Barry, South Glamorgan, makers of the Intoximeter. The verdict was given on the grounds that doubts about the machine's reliability were matters of legitimate public interest.

Lord Justice Griffiths said: "I believe that the campaign to put pressure on the authorities is very important, and from time to time an essential function of the free press."

He added that the judgment should not be regarded as "a mole's charter", entitling disgruntled employees to take their employers' confidential information and hand it to newspapers.

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"Express" wins case, page 5
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NUM leaders in moderate Midlands call out 13,000 men on strike

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The miners' strike spread further yesterday into the moderate Midlands area, when coalfield leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers called out 13,000 men who have voted overwhelmingly in favour of normal working in favour of the strike.

The strike call is expected to be effective, tightening the noose on the few remaining pits at work as the miners' "rolling stoppage" gathers pace. By last night, only 35 collieries out of 176 were working normally - most concentrated in Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and south Derbyshire.

While the situation deteriorates, NUM leaders have made clear to the TUC that they are not seeking formal intervention from the labour movement in their dispute with the National Coal Board over pit closures and pay.

A letter from the union's General Secretary, Mr Peter

Heathfield read out to yesterday's TUC "inner cabinet", its Finance and General Purposes Committee, indicated that the miners were not seeking intervention or assistance.

Privately, moderate union leaders are making clear their lack of support for the miners, whose determined breach of the 1980 Employment Act's ban on secondary picketing has embarrassed the right-wing majority on the general council.

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, yesterday promised that "the fight against pit closures and for jobs will go on", and there is no hint of an early recall of the union's national executive to implement a national pinhead ballot on industrial action.

Speaking outside the High Court in London during a break in the action brought by the National Coal Board against the

NUM over the union's veto on overseas investment by the miners' pension fund, he argued that the week-long court case would make it difficult for him to keep tabs on the strike. The strike called by Midlands miners' leaders is due to take effect from the first shift today.

Mr Jim Colgan, area NUM secretary, argued that the mood of the miners had changed since they voted last week to continue normal working.

Many pitmen had complained about police behaviour towards the "flying pickets" from Yorkshire, Kent and South Wales. There was also deep concern about miner fighting miner.

The strike is beginning to have an impact on industry, with British Steel halving production at its plant in Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire.

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Liverpool's budget short 'by £190m'

The controversial Budget proposed for Liverpool would fall short by £190m, a figure far above earlier estimates, and result in a "sudden and dramatic" collapse of services, the city's treasurer, Mr Mike Reddington, told councillors yesterday.

After two hours of noisy debate, the financial control sub-committee approved the budget, which goes before the full council on Thursday.

It is thought unlikely however that it will be carried. The ruling Labour group has an overall majority of three, and seven rebel Labour councillors have said they will vote against the proposal.

The underfunding had been put at £30m and subsequently at £40m to £50m.

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Territorial Army to get 11,000 new members and better equipment

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The Government yesterday announced plans to recruit an extra 11,000 members to the Territorial Army by the end of the decade.

It will form six new infantry battalions and an additional air defence regiment in Scotland, and for the first time there will be a Territorial Army Air Corps Squadron, equipped with 12 Scout helicopters.

The expansion is designed to fulfil a target, set by Sir John Nott when Secretary of State for Defence in 1981, of raising the strength of the TA to 86,000 by 1990.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Sir John's successor, said that the expansion would add £30m to the TA's annual running costs and would involve the spending of £410m on equipment and facilities up to 1990.

There will also be a considerable reorganization of TA infantry units to improve command and control arrangements.

Of the six new infantry

battalions, one will be formed as an additional battalion of the Royal Green Jackets.

The names of the other four have yet to be decided and it is likely that there will be intensive lobbying as people seek to enhance their own regiments or to revive the names of regiments now defunct.

At 1982/83 prices the TA at its present size costs about £220m a year. Mr Heseltine told the Commons that it provided more than 25 per cent of the Army's mobilized strength at a cost of only 4½ per cent of the army budget.

The TA will also be receiving new equipment which will include the LAW 80 anti-tank weapon and new small arms. An air defence squadron will be formed in Scotland which will be equipped with the Javelin missile, an updated version of Blowpipe anti-aircraft missile.

Members of the TA are paid for each day of training. A private receives £11.50 a day and a Second lieutenant £16.95.

They also receive a tax-free bounty of £150 in the first year, £275 in the second and £400 in the third.

They are required to put in a minimum of 27 training days a year to qualify for the bounty, but typically they do 15 days at an annual camp and 26 other training days spread through the year.

The financial disincentives to unemployed people joining the TA may be removed (the Press Association reports). An announcement is expected soon that TA pay will no longer be judged as earned income by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Station project

A new railway station is being built at Cromer, Norfolk, by 10 unemployed people in a joint scheme by North Norfolk District Council and the Manpower Services Commission to boost the number of passengers on the Cromer to Norwich line.

LT hopes to top £40m surplus

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

London Transport reversed years of decline last year with a £40m surplus by carrying more passengers by both bus and Underground, and achieving shorter waits at bus stops. It was its biggest profit in over 20 years.

Performance could be even better this year and there are hopes that the capital's public transport system, helped both by more attractive fares and more effective management, has at last arrested the decline and turned the corner towards an expanding future.

LT's new Travelcard, allowing unlimited travel for various periods on payment of a lump sum, has played a key part and a new £2 one-day Travelcard allowing unlimited travel after 10 am will consolidate its success in 1985.

A drop from 14 to six per cent in lost bus miles was achieved, primarily because staff shortages have been eliminated and bus maintenance improved.

The improved results allowed the Greater London Council's transport committee yesterday to adopt a new three-year plan for London Transport providing for a fare freeze until 1987, and a small increase in bus and Tube mileage - all at the current level of £190m a year revenue support and with no job losses.

Mr Dave Wetzel, the chairman of the committee, described the scheme yesterday as "an optimistic plan for the future, and for the people of London."

With London Transport due to be taken over by the Government this summer and the GLC to be abolished next year, he said: "This shows the GLC is not allocating its duties towards the people of London. We are still in charge, and this is the direction we intend LT to take if the Government's London Regional Transport Bill is defeated."

He gave a warning of dire consequences for London if the Bill is passed and described Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for Transport, as "not a Transport Minister but a Treasury clone."

If the London Transport was taken over, Mr Ridley's guidelines were followed, fares would go up 27 per cent.



£561,000 for Pissarro

The National Gallery paid a record £561,000 last night at Christie's for "La Route de Sydenham" (above), a view of Lawrie Park Avenue, Sydenham, south London, (right) painted in 1870-71 by Camille Pissarro.

This painting depicts a view down The Avenue, as it was called then, towards St Bartholomew's Church. It was bought almost immediately by the art dealer Paul Durand-Ruel, who is believed to have sold it in the 1920s or 1930s.



Brittan to outline independent prosecution service

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Home Secretary will announce this week the Government's plans for setting up a new national prosecution service in England and Wales independent of the police.

Legislation is expected to be introduced in the next session of Parliament beginning in the autumn based broadly on proposals contained in a White Paper published last October, which envisaged a service headed by the Director of Public Prosecutions and under the superintendence of the Attorney General.

The Government is acting to change a system which the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure has criticized as lacking in openness and accountability.

Under the proposals to be

outlined to MPs by Mr Leon Brittan local prosecutors will have responsibility for the conduct of criminal proceedings in all cases now prosecuted by or on behalf of the police.

The White Paper foresaw that the prosecutors, together with the headquarters staff of the DPP, would all be officers of a single prosecution service. They would not be subject to direction or influence by the police in deciding whether charges should proceed or be dropped or how a case should be conducted.

The conduct of the case would no longer be in the hands of a solicitor who under the present system has the chief officer of police as his client and is bound to proceed in accordance with the instructions he receives.

The Bill on the independent prosecution service will also contain proposals for a new office of the Attorney General to refer what he regards as over-lenient sentences, particularly in controversial cases such as rape, to the Court of Appeal.

It will not have power to alter sentences passed by judges in other courts, but the aim is to ensure that review by the appeal court would have a deterrent effect on judges whose leniency had been publicly questioned.

Change welcomed by lawyers and JPs

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

Under the Government's proposals, lawyers who would take over conduct of all prosecutions from the police, would be civil servants employed by the national prosecution service.

It is estimated that setting up a centrally funded prosecution service would cost an extra £4.9m a year and require 580 more solicitors and 210 support staff as well as the 770 solicitors and 880 support staff now employed in prosecuting solicitors' departments.

Fees paid to barristers and solicitors in private practice for conducting cases in magistrates' courts would be reduced from some £2.5m a year to about £1.1m.

Prosecuting solicitors, barristers, magistrates and their clerks all generally welcome the proposal for an independent prosecution service.

But they are divided on the way it should be organized. Sir Arthur Power, secretary of the Senate of the Inns of Court and the Bar said yesterday: "We had originally pressed for a regional service responsible to the Attorney General and Director of Public Prosecutions."

The Government was bringing in a "rather more centralized" service than the Bar thought ideal.

Barristers were concerned about the effect on pay of such a system, with its greater government control over expenditure.

The Law Society welcomes a nationally-based service and the separation of the police from legal representation as a counterbalance to the new police powers proposed in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill.

Shipyard men back takeover

By Jonathan Davis

A key obstacle to the planned private sector takeover of the Scott Lithgow shipyard on Clydeside was cleared yesterday when workers voted to approve a deal which should safeguard 2,900 jobs at the yard for the immediate future.

Mass meetings of workers at Scott Lithgow endorsed a favourable agreement on jobs drawn up between unions and the joint bidders for the yard, Trafalgar House and Howard Doris.

Mr Duncan McNeil, the union convenor, said: "We have achieved a real victory."

Trafalgar House originally claimed that it would require only 1,200 of the 2,900 workers after its takeover. The main obstacle to the private sector takeover is that Britoil, the Glasgow-based oil company, has still formally to revoke its cancellation of its crucial £85m rig order with Scott Lithgow.

It claimed that 17 of the 20 opposed the plan to abolish the GLC and the six English metropolitan county councils in 1986.

Butterfly farms for Guernsey

Guernsey is to use glass-houses left vacant by the decline in tomato-growing to produce butterflies for areas of Britain where they have become scarce. It was announced yesterday.

The scheme, known as "Project Papillon", will provide work for men who have lost horticultural jobs.

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Rate rises 'lowest on average for 10 years'

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

The average rate rises demanded from householders and businesses next month will be the lowest since the reorganization of local government 10 years ago, the Rating and Valuation Association said yesterday.

Its survey, which it claimed was the most comprehensive issued so far, showed that the average increase in domestic rates in England and Wales will be 6.71 per cent. The commercial rate rise will be 5.86 per cent.

The survey was based on returns from all but two of the 403 rating councils in England and Wales. Those missing were Isles of Scilly and Liverpool.

COUNCILS AND GOVERNMENT SPENDING TARGETS

Councils below target	174
Spending at target	174
Up to 2 per cent over	55
2 to 5 per cent over	52
Over 5 per cent	22

Source: Rating and Valuation Association survey of 398 out of 403 rating councils in England and Wales.

The association said that a third of a slightly smaller sample of councils would spend in the coming year above the targets fixed by ministers. Spending above targets can bring penalties in the form of cuts in government contributions to local government spending.

The increased harshness of penalties had made many councillors trim their spending plans, the association said.

In some cases a high-spending council would have to spend £2.40 from ratepayers in order to spend an extra £1 on services. The other £1.40 would be cut from its central government grant as a penalty for spending the extra £1 above its target.

Mr Gerald Hodges, director of finance for Bradford City Council, said at a press conference held by the association in London that councils had kept their rates rises low by running down their balances.

"We are being forced in my opinion to reduce our balances to unrealistic levels," he said. "I am apprehensive about next year. You have heard of creative accounting. But you can only use that sort of money once."

Shires 'backing' GLC campaign

The Greater London Council yesterday claimed strong support from the shires for its campaign against government plans to abolish it. It said that 20 of the 39 English county councils not threatened with abolition in two years' time had sent views about abolition to the Government.

It claimed that 17 of the 20 opposed the plan to abolish the GLC and the six English metropolitan county councils in 1986.

Radiation in homes near Sellafield to be studied

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A check on radioactivity in house dust and in the air in 20 homes in four villages near the Sellafield nuclear waste treatment plant, Cumbria, is to be made for the Department of Health and Social Security. The investigation in each house will take five weeks.

A second study, expected to take about two years and involve 200 families, is being arranged by the Department of the Environment. The surveys have been ordered by the Government after allegations that levels of

leukaemia, particularly among children, are significantly higher than other parts of the country. The difficulty will be to convert levels of radioactivity into a potential dose of radiation. The calculation takes into account the radiation emitted by the particle, alpha, beta or gamma.

The villages chosen for the first study are Ravensglass, Seale and St Bees on the coast and Gosforth, inland. Householders will be issued with special vacuum cleaners to catch minute particles.

Remand for graduate over IRA killing

A Queen's University graduate was remanded in custody for a week yesterday, charged in connection with the murder of Mr Edgar Graham.

Brandon Kerr, aged 23, an advertising sales representative living in south Belfast, is accused of withholding information about the Provisional IRA killing last year.

Seamen's union backs closure of hospital

The National Union of Seamen said yesterday that it would back the proposed closure of the 150 year old Dreadnought Seamen's Hospital in Greenwich and its transfer to St Thomas's teaching hospital in south London.

The proposal has produced a vociferous campaign of local opposition.

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Miners' pension fund 'hazarded by Scargill'

Mr Arthur Scargill and other miners' leaders were accused yesterday of "disregarding their duty of prudence" by blocking investments from the mine-workers' £3,000m pension fund in foreign countries or competing equity interests.

Mr Samuel Stamler, QC, said in the High Court that their attitude was inconsistent with their "fiduciary duty" as trustees of the fund, to act in the interests of its beneficiaries, retired miners, widows and other dependents.

Mr Stamler said the fund had £200m annually to invest. It paid benefit of £2.24m to pensioners in 1981-82 and annual lump sum payments of £45.2m. About 250,000 pensioners and 100,000 widows and former members received benefits.

Members contributed £84.8m to the scheme and the coal board £151.5m. Mr Scargill and his fellow union nominees on the fund's management committee were missing their investment powers, he contended.

"They are disregarding the duty of prudence and exposing the fund to a hazard - unnecessary risk," Mr Stamler told the judge, Vice-Chancellor Sir Robert Megarry.

"Investments in oil and gas and investment overseas are regarded by the advisers to the scheme, its management and many other experts as necessary



Mr Scargill in London yesterday.

to the prudent investment of the funds of the scheme."

Mr Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, and the other union nominees are being sued over their refusal to approve investment strategy formulated in 1982. They had refused to approve investments overseas or in interest which competed with coal.

The action has been taken by the five coal board nominees on the management committee, led by the board's deputy chairman, Mr James Cowan.

The National Coal Board say that Mr Scargill and the other union trustees are giving effect to considerations that should play no part in their duty.

Miners' strike begins to worry industry

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The partial closure of British Steel Corporation's Scunthorpe works is the first sign that the two-week coal strike is beginning to affect industry, although it may be some days before it starts to disrupt output seriously.

The most threatened industries are steel and iron-founding, which rely on coke. West Midlands employers in engineering are worried.

The National Coal Board confirmed last night that supplies of coke to iron foundries, which last year totalled 300,000 tonnes, have now dried up, and because companies in that sector tend to carry small stocks there could be early production cutbacks.

The situation at Scunthorpe is said to be unique because all the other BSC plants can make coke from coal on site and coal stocks were said by the management last night to be "adequate".

Scunthorpe relies on coke from South Yorkshire. Miners' pickets have stopped the movement of supplies by the two main rail lines.

Coal stocks, at other British Steel plants are thought likely to last for weeks rather than months.

The Confederation of British Industry said that it was too early to suggest what impact the strike would have on industry, because most companies had stocked up in preparation. The industries most likely to be

affected, other than engineering and steel, were cement production and some chemicals.

British Rail, which normally carries about 1.5m tonnes of coal a week, said its business had been reduced by half, with no coal being moved in its Western, Eastern and Scottish regions, although coal trains were still operating in the Midlands, where moderate miners were working normally.

Yorkshire flying pickets trying to reach the Nottinghamshire coalfield are being increasingly frustrated as hundreds of policemen, manning an elaborate system of road checks in the county, turn them back in their scores (Craig Selton writes).

Yesterday 27 Yorkshire miners were arrested at road checks in the county and face court appearances on charges of obstructing the police or conducting likely to cause a breach of the peace.

Many Yorkshire miners are now finding their way to Nottinghamshire's 25 pits using minor roads to try to avoid the police checkpoints.

All the pits in the county, where local miners voted heavily against the strike, were reported to be working normally yesterday.

Correction

The description in yesterday's issue of The Times of the Nottinghamshire pickets as "non-union" was incorrect.

THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER FOR SALE AND THE STOCKS LISTED BELOW ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE DIRECT FROM THE BANK OF ENGLAND. OFFICIAL DEALINGS IN THE STOCKS OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE ARE EXPECTED TO COMMENCE ON WEDNESDAY, 28TH MARCH 1984.

ISSUES OF GOVERNMENT STOCK

The Bank of England announces that Her Majesty's Treasury has created on 26th March 1984, and has issued to the Bank, additional amounts, as indicated, of each of the Stocks listed below:

£200 million 10 per cent TREASURY STOCK, 1987
£200 million 10½ per cent EXCHEQUER STOCK, 1995
£100 million 10½ per cent CONVERSION STOCK, 1999

The price paid by the Bank on issue was in each case the middle market closing price of the relevant Stock on 26th March 1984 as certified by the Government Broker.

In each case, the amount issued on 26th March 1984 represents a further tranche of the relevant Stock, ranking in all respects pari passu with that Stock and subject to the terms and conditions of its prospectus save as to the particulars therein which relate solely to the Stock. The issue of the Stock, Copies of the prospectuses for 10 per cent Treasury Stock, 1987 and 10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 1995 dated 12th September 1983 and 9th January 1978 respectively, and of the prospectus dated 28th April 1983 for 2½ per cent Index-Linked Treasury Convertible Stock, 1999 (which contained the terms of issue of 10½ per cent Conversion Stock, 1999), may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Issues, Walling Street, London, EC4M 9AA.

Application has been made to the Council of the Stock Exchange for each further tranche of stock to be admitted to the Official List. The Stocks are repayable at par, and interest is payable half-yearly on the dates shown below:

Stock	Redemption date	Interest payment dates
10 per cent Treasury Stock	12th June 1987	12th June
10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 1995	21st July 1995	12 December
10½ per cent Conversion Stock, 1999	22nd November 1999	21st January
10½ per cent Conversion Stock, 1999	22nd November 1999	21st July
10½ per cent Conversion Stock, 1999	22nd November 1999	22nd May

The further tranches of 10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 1995 and 10½ per cent Conversion Stock, 1999 will rank for a full six months' interest on the next interest payment date applicable to the relevant tranche. The further tranche of 10 per cent Treasury Stock, 1987 will rank for the interest payment of £6.4361 per cent due on 12th June 1984 on the existing Stock.

BANK OF ENGLAND LONDON 26th March 1984

Rate rises
lowest on
average for
10 years

Solicitors challenge Bar for the right to plead in higher courts

By Frances Gibb Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Law Society launched a campaign yesterday to break the monopoly of advocacy in higher courts, and obtain rights for the 43,000 practising solicitors in England and Wales.

The move, which comes hard on the heels of the loss of the solicitors' conveyancing monopoly, could have a serious effect on the 4,800 practising barristers.

It could also herald the end of the two-branch legal profession, barristers would reply by seeking an end to the solicitors' monopoly of direct access to the courts.

In a statement yesterday the society said if the conveyancing monopoly were removed it did not think it right to allow rules remain which cannot be justified in the public interest and are designed solely for the protection of the Bar.

Solicitors already have unfettered rights to appear before the county courts, and a right of audience in chambers in the High Court. They will now press for rights of advocacy in the crown courts, High Court, Court of Appeal, House of Lords and Privy Council.

The campaign, prompted by the profession's younger members who are the majority, is intended to take advantage of

repeatedly-stated government intentions to tackle professional monopolies in general.

Mr David Edwards, deputy secretary general at the society, said it wanted to "catch the tide" if the Government was serious on changing the professions and monopolies. "There has been no mention of the Bar but there is no reason why it should not be included."

Extended right of audience, last pressed for by the Law Society in 1979, when it was rejected by the Royal Commission on Legal Services, could largely be achieved without legislation.

The Lord Chancellor has power under the Courts Act, 1971, to grant advocacy rights in the crown courts, the greatest prize for solicitors and representing half of barristers' criminal work. This could be achieved "at the stroke of a pen", Mr Edwards said.

Rights in other courts would need legislation, and the society is to press for such rights in a suitable Bill such as an Administration of Justice Bill. It is also seeking amendments to the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill now before the Commons, to grant advocacy rights in all family proceedings.

Sir Arthur Power, secretary of

the Senate of the Bar and Inns of Court, said yesterday that the Bar was "unimpressed" with the Law Society's reasons for pressing for rights of audience. The whole question was considered, he said, by the Royal Commission in 1979 and "the English legal profession as a whole should rather be considering ways of improving its service to the public."

The Law Society denied yesterday that its move would lead to the fusion of the profession's two branches. Mr Edwards said that it had always supported the need for a specialist Bar, albeit one reduced in numbers. "It might be 3,000 to 4,000 instead of its present 5,000."

Solicitors would take on much of the basic routine advocacy work, the society argues, and leave the more complicated cases to the Bar.

Among reasons cited for the campaign are greater freedom for the client in choosing an advocate, more efficient management of the case by the solicitor and continuity in the case, which will not have to be handed over to a barrister.

The extension of advocacy rights would inevitably lead to solicitors being appointed judges, the society said yesterday.

Betting firms agreed closures

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Corals, the bookmaking subsidiary of Bass, and another leading bookmaker, Ladbrokes, are being taken to the Restrictive Practices Court by Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, over alleged closures of betting shops.

Investigations by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), following a complaint, unearthed 35

secret agreements under which balancing betting shop closures were made. Unprofitable shops are thought to have been involved.

Other undisclosed agreements on betting shop closures involving other bookmakers are still being examined.

One schedule of agreements by Ladbrokes - now placed on the restrictive practices register

- involved a number of other bookmakers, including Mecca, William Hill and Tote.

A Corals schedule also involved a number of other bookmakers.

Ladbrokes said last night that, when approached by the OFT, the company had offered every cooperation and that no further agreements had been entered into.

Mumps aid BR's case

By Tim Jones

The British Rail passenger service on the beautiful Cambrian coast was severely affected - because the only passenger to use the Tontfrynau halt regularly was ill in bed with mumps.

As Neil Heselton aged 12, recovered, a political battle was brewing over the future of the halt which he uses each day to

Tontfrynau

take him to and from school in Tontfrynau, Gwynedd.

British Rail proposes to close Tontfrynau and two other halts along the line in an attempt to save £16,000 a year.

To strengthen the case, railway officials last week took a passenger survey of the halts to see how many people used the two trains a day which run

in each direction. But, with Neil tucked up in bed, no one used the trains.

British Rail says the wooden halts are decaying and repairs would cost £16,000. That could be better spent on the route, which loses more than £1 million a year, BR maintains.

A spokesman said: "This does not indicate any lessening in our commitment to keep the line open. But these halts are becoming dangerous and from May 14 we are suspending the services to them while we apply for the necessary ministerial consent to close them."

Burglar brought the house down

Anthony Brown broke into a house to steal copper piping and blew it up. He had removed the piping from a live gas supply and then lit a match so that he could see in the dark. Southwark Crown Court was told yesterday.

Brown, aged 42, of no fixed address, survived the explosion unhurt and carried on stripping the central heating system as flames surrounded him.

He returned to the destroyed house, in Fulham, south-west London, the next day to steal more and was caught by the police investigating the explosion.

Brown, unemployed, who admitted arson and burglary, was jailed for 4½ years.

Man on trial in waxworks case

John Kevin Acland, charged with causing damage estimated at £3,284 to wax models and props at Madame Tussaud's in north London, was yesterday sent for trial at Knightsbridge Crown Court by Marylebone Magistrates' Court.

Mr Acland, aged 21, from Pinner, north London, was granted bail on condition that he does not visit the museum. The charge relates to the Guy Fawkes, Sleeping Beauty and Bonnie Prince Charlie tableaux.

Busmen strike

Most Glasgow bus and underground services were stopped yesterday by the second of what could become a series of one-day strikes in protest at the planned closure of three bus garages.

Puppy calls 999

Bruno, a mongrel puppy, caused a police alert yesterday when it knocked over a push-button telephone at its home in Fareham, Hampshire, and punched the 9 button three times with its paw.

Video-disc player prices cut by third

By Bill Johnstone

Philips, the consumer electronics company, has cut the prices of its LaserVision video-disc players by almost a third, making their high-street price less than half the £500 launch price two years ago.

The price reduction is the third since Philips launched its revolutionary product and is meant to allow its machines to compete directly in price with the models produced by the United States company, RCA.

The sales campaign will include other European video-disc markets in Germany, Holland, France and Switzerland.

Philips hopes to attract buyers and increase consumer acceptability of its products.

The price cuts will be matched by a £2m advertising campaign, a new programme for dealers, a reduction in the price of some of the discs, and a doubling of the number of titles available from the present 420 titles in the video-disc library, which are pressed at the Philips factory at Blackburn, Lancashire.

The new discounts will bring some discs down to under £10 from a top price of £18. Later in the year a new 8in disc, principally for music lovers, will be launched for about £8.

The 12in discs produce high-quality sound for two hours on two sides. Signals for the video disc are held in minute pits on the disc and are extracted by laser. Sales of home computer software have fallen dramatically since the start of the year, according to the Liverpool-based researchers Gowling Marketing Services.

Since 1979, 11.3 million programs have been sold to home computer owners in the United Kingdom. That figure should rise by about 1.3 million by the end of this year, the researchers say, far short of the sales which some companies have predicted for 1984.

Computer Horizons, page 17

Satellite channels may be split

By Our Technology Correspondent

The BBC and independent television companies would not give their own channels for direct broadcasting by satellite under the latest blueprint.

The system now favoured by the proposed partners provides for the channels carrying a combination of programmes. Financial and electronic hardware manufacturers are being canvassed to join the consortium which is expected to include the BBC and the independent companies. The BBC would hold 30 per cent equity in the company and the other partner would have the remaining share.

The new blueprint means that the four-channel system proposed earlier in the year has been rejected. The model was one channel to the BBC and one to the independent companies.

The Home Office, the Department of Trade and Industry, the BBC and the independent television companies have been trying to reach an agreement on a new satellite project since the BBC abandoned its original plans.

Manuals on bomb making still sold

By David Cross

United States Army manuals describing how to make bombs from household materials are on sale in London six months after being reported to the Home Office.

"Frustrated by the Home Office's explanation that it is powerless to ban the books, Mr P. Scheibner, a historian, has decided to show how to make home-made napalm, plastic explosives, nail bombs and booby traps at a hall in Lewisham, south London, on April 13.

The instructions are so simple they can be followed by

"any child of limited intelligence", he says.

The manuals, published by the US Defence Department for members of the armed forces, are available at modest prices from at least three outlets in London.

Mr Scheibner keeps the manuals *Incendiaries - unconventional warfare devices and techniques*, *Boobytraps and Improvised Munitions Handbook* in a safety deposit box in his south London home together with plastic cartridges, detonators and empty hand grenades which can all be purchased cheaply from the same outlets.

Thames site buy-back

By John Young

The Greater London Council is expected within a few days to announce the future of the prime Coin Street site, on the south bank of the Thames between Waterloo and Blackfriars bridges.

It is believed that negotiations are under way for the council to buy back the land.

There have since been three stormy public inquiries and two High Court cases, and meanwhile a glut of unlet offices has developed in the capital.

Fake medieval cupboard in sale

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

One of the most impressive and successful fakes of the 1920s is included in Sotheby's house sale at Rookness, Lamorna Woodlands, Berkshire, tomorrow.

It was designed to look like a medieval food cupboard, richly carved in oak, and was probably made for one of the most discerning collectors of the period, Morgan Williams, of St Donat's Castle, near Cardiff.

Williams was a pioneer collector of early oak furniture, combining it with a taste for arms and armour good enough for many of his pieces to have been acquired by the Tower of London.

In 1909 Percy Maquoid included an illustration of the

cupboard in his book *The Age of Oak*, which remained the most influential work on the period for half a century.

One effect of the book was to encourage millionaire collectors into the field. At the 1921 sale of the contents of St Donat's Castle, the cupboard was bought by Evelyn Sportswoode, who had inherited a fortune built on Johnny Walker whisky.

Mrs Sportswoode furnished Rookness in the 1920s with the early oak furniture which was all the rage, mixing splendid genuine pieces with made-up items and out-and-out fakes.

The food cupboard is a fascinating example of a fake piece, knitting together genuinely ancient bits and pieces.

The frame appears to be an oak dresser of about 1720 turned upside down, with drawers at the bottom and cupboards above.

In the cupboard doors there are two panels carved with portraits dating from about 1530, divided by a small openwork panel of Gothic tracery dating perhaps from 1480.

The openwork front of the drawers appears to have been carved when the piece was put together in about 1890 to match the Gothic tracery above, while the linenfold panels on the sides of the cupboard are probably also old but from yet another source.

The cupboard was first published as an outstanding medieval survival in 1902 by F. Roe in *Ancient Coffers and Cupboards*. He says that the piece was "recently discovered" in a remote part of Devon. Some of the grandest early oak furniture was made in Devon, in and around Exeter, a flourishing port, so that was a highly intelligent fake provenance for the cupboard.

As a palimpsest of ancient and modern carving the piece is expected to sell tomorrow for about £3,000. If it were genuinely medieval, the price might be nearer £30,000. The discovery that the piece was a fake was the work of Mr Victor Chinnery, an expert on oak furniture and consultant to Sotheby's.

Divorce for MP

The 19-year marriage of Mr John Browne, aged 45, Conservative MP for Winchester, was ended in the London Divorce Court today when his wife Elizabeth was granted a special procedure divorce.

A measure of how some companies lose money.

A fish might seem a curious measure of lost profits, yet any angler will tell you that one of the places where you find big fish is by the hot water outlet of certain factories.

Why?

Well, the warm water encourages river life to flourish, and so there's more for the fish to feed on so the fish grow bigger.

Great for the angler, but not quite so good for you if you're running the company.

Because that hot water could be costing you a fortune in wasted energy. In fact, the amount you're losing could set you reeling.

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Fortunately there is something you can do about it.

Take the case of Fabricare Limited. With the help of our Energy Conservation Demonstration Projects Scheme they were able to install a heat recycling system which reduced their

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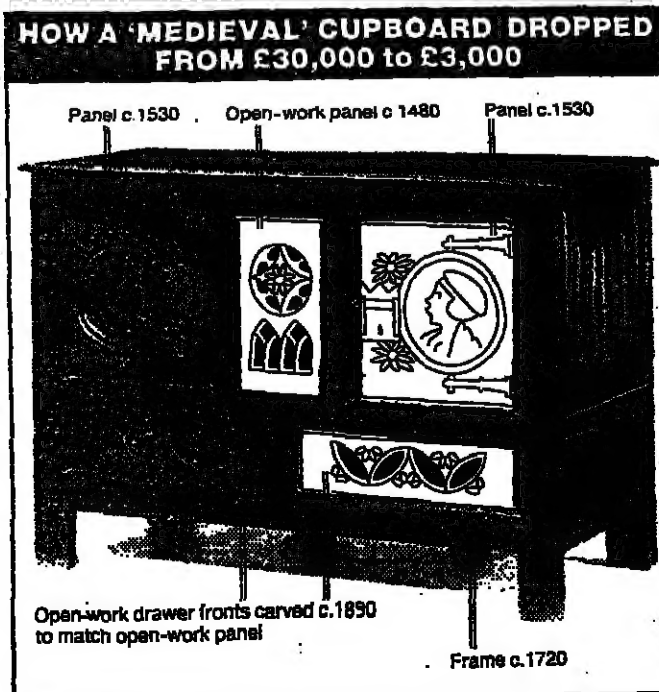
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ENERGY EFFICIENCY OFFICE



Six new TA infantry battalions announced

DEFENCE

Further details of the plans to expand Britain's Territorial Army from 75,000 to 86,000 by 1990 were announced by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, in the Commons. He stated that six new infantry battalions would be raised in North Yorkshire and Cleveland, Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and Cheshire, Devon and Cornwall, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, and in London.

For the first time a Territorial Army Air Corps squadron, equipped with Scout helicopters, would be formed.

The House will recall (he said) the Government's commitment to enhance our volunteer reserve forces. Two years ago my predecessor (Sir John Nott) announced improvements in our support to the Territorial Army and our plans to expand it to 86,000 by 1990. I am now able to announce the second and more ambitious phase of these plans.

In considering where and how to enhance the Territorial Army we have been guided by a number of principles. Most important is the operational requirement both in the European theatre and in home defence. We have also been conscious of recruiting potential; the availability of suitable facilities; and, in particular, the importance of the regimental traditions and local affiliations.

Wherever appropriate, we have used the expansion plans to restructure and reorganize the Territorial Army infantry units. This will improve command and control, and reduce their geographical spread, which has long been a matter of concern.

Although final details remain to be decided, I can give the House an outline of our plans.

We propose to raise six new infantry battalions in North Yorkshire and Cleveland; Yorkshire; Greater Manchester and Cheshire; Devon and Cornwall; Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire; and London.

We intend to raise a new armoured reconnaissance squadron in the Newcastle area. A new air defence regiment will be formed in Scotland and a further battery added to each of the three existing regiments. All will be equipped with the Javelin guided missile.

We plan to form for the first time a Territorial Army Corps Squadron, equipped with Scout helicopters. We shall also form new logistic and support units, including an ordnance unit in Bristol, a medical unit in Cambridge, and a transport squadron in Wales.

We plan also to enhance the Territorial Army's equipment. The number of guns in Field Artillery regiments will be increased; the infantry will receive along with its regular counterparts, the new anti-tank weapon LAW 80 and new small arms. TA battalions in the 2nd Infantry Division will be equipped with more mortars.

Our plans are to be implemented from 1986 onwards in line with its regular counterparts, the new anti-tank weapon LAW 80 and new small arms. TA battalions in the 2nd Infantry Division will be equipped with more mortars.

These measures will significantly increase our conventional capability, both in the United Kingdom and in Germany. They will strengthen the credibility of NATO's conventional defence. But for success in this task, the Territorial Army needs to recruit and retain its manpower. We are considering practical measures to assist in this — and have launched a major drive to increase employer support. I hope the House will see the merits of encouraging the employers of reserve soldiers to help and support them where they can.

The Territorial Army provides over 25 per cent of the Army's mobilised strength at a cost of only 4½ per cent of the Army budget. The House will wish me to pay tribute to those who are already serving members of our Volunteer Reserve, not only in the Territorial Army, but in the Royal Naval Reserve, the Royal Marine Reserve, and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force.

Mr Heseltine said the Government will be saving a great deal more about the issue.

service in the defence of our country. Their dedication deserves the full support of this House, and of the community at large. They are a symbol of the British people's commitment to NATO defence.

Mr Denis Davies, an Opposition spokesman on defence (Llanelli, Lab): How much will be the annual cost of these steps and the total cost to 1990? What response has there been so far from the employers, whose enthusiasm may not be so great as Mr Heseltine hoped?

While welcoming any steps to increase conventional defences, why does he not make a statement about the £2,000m increase in Trident which has caused far greater damage to our conventional defences than any benefit from this statement.

Mr Heseltine: The annual cost is of the order of £30m a year and the capital cost £150m.

He is right in asking about employers' acceptance because they have a prior preoccupation to ensure that their employees are fully committed to their companies' success in hard trading conditions, but I hope that their enthusiasm will be on a wider basis.

I have announced the increased Trident costs.

Dr David Owen, Leader of the SDP (Plymouth, Devonport): While in 1986 he is planning 0.5 per cent real expansion, the Territorial Army is in expansion of the defence forces. I welcome the new battalions, particularly that for Devon and Cornwall and also the decision to equip them with anti-tank missiles.

Will he be more about the youth training scheme and the extraordinary fact that only 670 have been accepted for it, despite the fact that there are 1,900 vacancies and 3,000 applications.

Many had hoped the scheme would appeal to young people. Are the conditions for entry too strict, insisting on the same requirements as for regulars?

Mr Heseltine: As to the point about the extra 0.5 per cent I must ask him to wait the forthcoming White Paper in which I shall be saying a great deal more about the issue.

Mr Patrick McNair-Wilson (New Forest, C): There is great concern in the Territorial Army about the effect which membership can have upon unemployment benefit. Given the importance of the role to which he referred earlier, would it not be possible for Territorial service to be exempt from this particular requirement?

Mr Heseltine: I have discussed this matter with the Secretary of State for Social Services. I hope he may be able to say something further in the next few days.

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton (Edinburgh West, C): How does he envisage that the air corps will operate?

Mr Heseltine: We plan to form a new Territorial AAC squadron equipped with Scout helicopters which will be phased out from the regular units but still have a valuable and useful life. The squadron will be based at Netheravon and will have something of the order of 12 helicopters available to it. We shall be recruiting from ex-Army aviation personnel.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) asked for an assurance that the Territorial Army would not be using live ammunition to shoot live animals, as Norwegian troops in NATO had done.

Mr Heseltine said the question of experiments on animals had been dealt with fully by a ministerial letter in which I shall be saying a great deal more about the issue.

Mr Jerry Wiggin (Weston-super-Mare, C): said particular attention needed to be paid to officer recruitment. It was vital for progress on new drill halls to continue.

Mr Heseltine said he agreed about the need to recruit officers. Part of the £140m capital spending would be required for new drill halls.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Worthington, Lab): What is the difference between this link which is helpful to the Government and the Greenham Common one which was not?

Mr Heseltine: Mr Campbell-Savours will know that no Government can countenance a lack of its documents whether Labour or Conservative.

Mr Cyril Townsend (Bexleyheath, C): said there was a general wish for enhanced and improved links between the regular army and the TA.

What consideration had been given to the retaining and bringing back of old famous names?

Mr Heseltine: We have given quite a lot of thought to the question of names and there is a certain amount of consultation in progress which will want to take into account the views of people on this matter. I would not want to announce any firm decisions, but we will intend to do this relatively soon.

Under consideration was the Great Jamboree in the Western District and the Light Infantry in Yorkshire.

Mr James Pansy (Rugby and Kenilworth, C): Will the TA be receiving up-to-date equipment and not clapped out stuff?

Mr Heseltine said he was making a number of significant decisions about equipment. For example, the TA would get the new rifle from 1986 and there would be an increase in mortars and field guns.

Union Bill based on elementary principles of democracy

TRADE UNIONS

The Government was always talking about giving trade unions back to their members so it should allow trade unionists their rights over union election ballots, Mr John Smith, chief Opposition spokesman on employment, said in the Commons during the report stage of the Trade Union Bill.

However, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, declared that the Bill was based on elementary principles of democracy — the ability of people to mark a paper to register their vote; to be able to have a voting paper supplied to them; to be able to have a fair and convenient opportunity to vote at no cost, in security, and to have the voted fairly counted.

That, he said, was the sum total of what was taken to be gross interference in the democratic freedoms of trade unions.

The reaction of many of the public (he went on) would not be outrage at this gross imposition on decent, honest men and women, but amazement if they learnt that these were not conditions which already applied in trade unions.

Mr John Smith said that the Bill, which brings in secret ballots for trade union elections and restricts union immunities in industrial action undertaken without a ballot, was a chance for the Government, to put its talk about freedom to the test.

He was moving an Opposition new clause to allow a trade union to opt out of the requirement to have a ballot to elect a principal executive committee if it held a ballot on the matter and members decide against it.

He said the government was trying to impose its own method on the trade union movement, but that showed the moderation and good sense of the Government's approach.

He was resisting the new clause and other amendments because the Government regarded Part I of the Bill as the minimum which should be applicable to all trade unions.

The new clause would be seen as opposing an extension of democratic rights to trade unions, the practice of the best-established trade unions.

The majority of the electorate had voted at the last election for parties which supported the Government's governing bodies of trade unions and a Mori poll has shown that 83

per cent of trade unionists wanted a secret ballot.

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It was an acid test of the genuineness of the Government's claim that its objective was to give unionists back to their members, because if that was its aim, there could be no argument against accepting the new clause.

Mr Spencer Basile (Elmer, C) said the new clause should be examined against the current actions of the National Union of Mineworkers. The claim by the Opposition was that the constitution would be safe in the hands of the executive of the unions, but that was belied by what had happened.

The executive of the NUM and particularly its President, Mr Arthur Scargill, had used every conceivable constitutional loophole to avoid members on the question of a strike. That was because the executive would not like the result.

It was precisely in that way that certain union leaders would use their constitution to manipulate the members.

Mr Gordon Brown (Dumfriesshire, Lab) said the Government had produced no evidence to substantiate claims of widespread dissatisfaction or widespread abuse which could justify limiting trade unionists' rights to decide their own constitution.

Mr David Enoch (Erich and Crayford, C) said there was a stark contrast between trade union members and their leaders. This Bill was an attempt to force trade unionists more democratic and more responsible.

Mr David Pugh (Truro, L) said he supported the general thrust of this part of the Bill as there was Government's justification behind the Government's general intent. But a union should be able to opt out of the obligations of this section for five years if it held a secret postal ballot of all members and the result showed the members satisfied with the existing arrangements.

The new clause was rejected by 272 votes to 174 — Government majority, 98.

King: Minimum standards for trade unions

It was not unreasonable that there should be certain minimum standards for them.

Anyone who read the Bill would find that what was seen by Labour MPs as detailed interference in the affairs of unions did not begin to be that.

Many criticized the Bill for not adequately meeting the situation but that showed the moderation and good sense of the Government's approach.

He was resisting the new clause and other amendments because the Government regarded Part I of the Bill as the minimum which should be applicable to all trade unions.

The new clause would be seen as opposing an extension of democratic rights to trade unions, the practice of the best-established trade unions.

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Strike will damage coal mining

WALES

Miners who wished to work should be allowed to do so and should not be impeded by others, Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, said during question time in the Commons. The miners' strike would do grave damage to the coal industry, he added, and must have its effect on the number of jobs the industry could provide in the future.

Mr Edwards said he had regular meetings with the regional director of the National Coal Board in South Wales, but had no plans at present for a meeting to discuss investment.

Mr Donald Coleman (Neath, Lab): Would he agree the key to the solution to the present problems in the mining industry in South Wales

is a positive commitment to investment by the National Coal Board and the Government?

Mr Edwards: Any decisions are for the board, but at present it seems unlikely the board will be able to give these the priority they should have.

The sooner people get back to work, the sooner the board can get

on with producing plans for investment for the future.

Mr Gwyn Jones (Cardiff North, C): It is a sad day for the coal industry in South Wales when we have seen the result of voting in the mining lodges and then good pits being picketed out by a militant minority.

We cannot help but feel sympathy for the miners and wish them victory in their battle against Mr Arthur Scargill.

Mr Barry Jones, chief Opposition spokesman on Wales: Of the 48 high tech faces in the United Kingdom, only one is in South Wales. Why is he so lukewarm and faithless about the new anthracite and coal coking pits in South Wales?

Mr Edwards: These are decisions rightly to be taken by the coal board.

Abolition of surcharge helps jobs

The abolition of the National Insurance surcharge — which he called Labour's wicked tax on jobs — would inject about £45m into Welsh industry this year to create new jobs.

Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, said during Commons questions.

During the past year, he said, Wales had attracted well over 20 per cent of the total inward investment to the United Kingdom, and that was evidence that foreign companies at least understood the remarkable claims of the Welsh Government.

Mr Raymond Powell (Ogmore, Lab), told by Mr Edwards that the latest seasonally adjusted total unemployed, excluding school leavers, was 163,300, compared with an estimated 78,300 in May 1979, said I would not like to call the Secretary of State a hypocrite because that would not be allowed in the chamber, but I have listened to five years of him giving these figures for increases in unemployment. It is high time he stood up in Cabinet and demanded some action by the Government to safeguard jobs in Wales.

Mr Edwards: What is hypocrisy is the action of the last Labour Government who bewailed unemployment and put a tax on jobs and

increased that wicked tax on jobs.

We have abolished that tax on jobs and that will mean about £45m more for Welsh industry this year.

Mr Keith Raffan (Delyn, C): The unemployment figures would be much higher if the nightclubs occurred and the Labour Party had the chance to implement its alternative economic strategy which many economists agree would achieve what had been thought impossible: soaring interest rates, soaring unemployment, soaring inflation and soaring taxation, all at the same time.

Mr Edwards: Of course it would. It would produce the same kind of disasters the last Labour Government produced. It would force us to increase unemployment, to increase unemployment, to increase unemployment.

Mr Michael Foot (Blaenau Gwent, Lab): The shameful figures he has been forced to announce show that the unemployment figures are far worse than in 1979. He should increase the amount the Welsh Development Agency could have at its disposal so it could afford extra industrial development as well as extra expenditure on derelict land.

Mr Edwards: It is more shameful that he was a member of a government which imposed this wicked tax on jobs, which helped to force us unemployment to its present level.

Mr Dafydd Wigley (Caernarfon, Pl C): We are sick and tired of him putting the blame on the last Government or saying things which will work out in the future. Several small countries have succeeded in keeping unemployment down but this Government has refused to take the necessary steps. It has cut down expenditure on housing, given money to the rich taxpayers in South East England.

Mr Edwards: We have built a record number of factories in Wales and put a record amount of new inward investment from overseas.

Mr Barry Jones, chief Opposition spokesman on Wales (Alyn and Deeside, Lab): Is he not ashamed that in a recent Common Market study industrial South East Wales is classified in the least prosperous group of Europe's 131 regions?

When can the people of Wales expect from him some decent,

honourable policies that will end mass unemployment for which he is personally responsible?

Mr Edwards: The survey to which he referred covered the period during which he was in office and the Labour Government was in power.

On a later question about unemployment, Mr Barry Jones asked: What news is there of the Nissan project? Can he confirm that a decision will be taken by the end of the month?

Will he join me in praise for Cwyd Council and its chief executive for the good job they have done?

Mr Edwards: A decision from the Nissan company is expected in the next few weeks. Not only have Cwyd Council done a good job but there has been a concerted effort by the Welsh Office, and the Welsh Development Agency and that is a matter for congratulation.

It was one of the two final short-listed sites which says a great deal for the reputation of the area and its quality. But the decision remains for the company.

Mr Foot: Will he answer the my question? The most immediate way in which he could help in dealing with these terrible figures is to increase the money allocated to the Welsh Development Agency.

Would he take urgent steps to ensure this is done?

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Sir John last week described Dr Owen's remarks as "a breath of fresh air". They gave him hope that Whitehall reform could be an issue at the next general election. But silence from the Conservatives has been a problem, mainly because of the attitude of his old boss, Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

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Public good 'can override law of confidence'

The *Daily Express* was given the go-ahead yesterday to publish confidential material about the accuracy of the Intoximeter breath-test equipment.

Three Court of Appeal judges decided unanimously that a ban on publication imposed by a High Court judge at Cardiff this month should be lifted in relation to three key documents.

A general ban covering other confidential material belonging to the makers of the Intoximeter, Lion Laboratories, of Barry, South Glamorgan, will remain.

The documents were handed to the *Daily Express* by two former Lion employees, Mr Philip Evans and Mr Robert Smith.

Lord Justice Griffiths said that if material suggested on a fair reading that Lion was not honouring its obligation to the public, or that the machine was unreliable, it was "beyond question" that it was in the public interest.

He emphasized that he considered this an "exceptional case." It was not intended to be a "mole's charter", entitling disgruntled employees to take their employers' confidential material to Fleet Street.

Lord Justice Stephenson said: "The public should know that Lion's senior research chemist had apparently certified machines in 1982 as complying with Home Office standards

when they were imperfectly calibrated and was so critical of the practice that he left Lion's employment.

The public should also know "that Lion's chairman and managing director was informing his own staff on the eve of the Christmas, 1983, crackdown on drunken driving that many Lion machines did not comply with Home Office standards and might have to be withdrawn."

Dr Tom Parry Jones, chairman and managing director of Lion, which employs 65 people, said: "I am sure many companies are going to be very concerned about his decision to allow ex-employees to secretly remove confidential memos and documents and make these available to the national press."

"The Home Office has just published figures which totally prove the Intoximeter's accuracy against blood tests and it is a pity this was not available in time for the hearing."

Lord Justice Griffiths said that it was inappropriate for a "technical" reappraisal of the machine to be carried out in a newspaper.

But a campaign to put pressure on the authorities to do so was a "very important, even essential" function of a free press. "We would all be the worse off if the press were unduly inhibited in this field of activity."

Law Report, page 25



The view from a Hercules transport refuelling from a Hercules tanker over the south Atlantic (Photograph: Brian Harris).

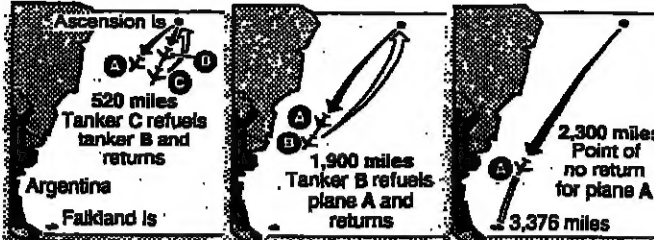
Stanley 'air bridge' notches 600 trips

By Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent

Hercules transport aircraft of the Royal Air Force will this week make the six-hundredth flight of the "air bridge" between Ascension Island and the Falkland Islands.

Since the recapture of the Falkland Islands in June, 1982, the Hercules have been operating their regular service across 3,376 miles of uninterrupted ocean at a cost of more than £100,000 a time.

It is thought to be the only regular passenger-carrying service in the world which depends vice in the world which depends entirely on the ability of one aircraft to refuel another in flight.



The air bridge began about ten days after the re-occupation of Port Stanley. Initially it involved seven or eight flights a week, but now it has settled down to five, of which two are basically passenger flights.

Because of favourable winds, the reliably good weather, the

return flight to Ascension Island can be made without refuelling in flight, but the outward flight requires a minimum of two transfers of fuel. In the first operation one air tanker tops up another, which then flies on to refuel the Hercules bound for Port Stanley.

The margins for error are small but 600 flights have been made without mishap, although there have been a few diversions to South American airfields.

The flights have not, however, been free of discomfort. Thirteen hours of noisy, cramped, uninterrupted flying with nothing to see, on seats which lack upholstery can be an ordeal.

Over the past 12 months only 4 per cent of flights had to turn back: 10 because of technical difficulties with the aircraft, six because of in-flight refuelling problems, six because of weather at Port Stanley, and one because of a blocked runway there.

NATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER FIGURES

JAN-JUNE 1981 Source: ABC JULY-DEC 1983

282,186	389,419
THE TIMES	-30.9%
3,622,720	4,127,578
The Sun	-19.9%
383,729	445,150
THE GUARDIAN	-13%
199,233	211,034
FINANCIALTIMES	-5.9%
1,836,118	1,407,185
Star	-5.3%
3,504,377	3,354,762
Mirror	-4.3%
1,963,054	1,850,135
Daily Mail	-5.75%
2,196,492	2,054,447
EXPRESS	-6.5%
1,400,935	1,245,026
Daily Telegraph	-11%

Times sales up 30% in 3 years

By Colin Hughes

Sales of *The Times* have grown by more than 30 per cent during the past three years, a larger percentage rise than any other national daily newspaper.

The *Daily Telegraph* has been the greatest loser in sales competition among the national daily "heavies". Its average daily sale fell by 155,909 over the three years from January 1981 to December 1983, although its total sales remain the highest, at 1,245,026 on average over the last six months of 1983.

Most of those lost readers appear to have moved to *The Times*, with an increase of 87,233 in average daily sales. *The Guardian* has added 51,421 a day, up 13 per cent, but its daily sales were still more than 75,000 a day greater than *The Times* at the end of last year.

Among all national newspapers, *The Sun* has achieved the second largest percentage

increase over the same period, 13.9 per cent. It has won the competition among the national tabloid papers by an increase of 504,858 a day to 4,127,578 over the second half of last year.

Most of those readers have moved from the *Daily Express* and *Daily Mirror*, both losing nearly 150,000 a day, and the *Daily Mail*, which lost 112,919.

The Times' average daily sales of 369,419 in the second half of last year compare with 310,093 in November 1978, immediately prior to the newspaper's 10-months shutdown.

and a trough of 268,797 in August 1980.

Comparison of the readership profiles of the four serious newspapers shows that the *Daily Telegraph* has the oldest group, with 54 per cent aged 45 or more, and *The Guardian* has the highest proportion of younger readers by a small margin.

More of *The Times*' readers (19.5 per cent) are in the most affluent and socially well-placed Class A bracket than any of the other three newspapers, although the *Financial Times* is close behind.

READERSHIP OF BROADSHEET NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS

Total adult population: 43.8m										
	Total sales	Readers as % of adult pop	(% of each newspaper's readers in brackets)							
			Class A rise	Age 15-44	Men	Women				
<i>The Times</i>	1,022,000	2.3	200,000 (19.5)	656,000 (64)	815,000 (60)	407,000 (40)				
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	1,235,000	2.4	211,000 (17)	1,486,000 (40)	1,708,000 (53)	585,000 (47)				
<i>The Guardian</i>	1,452,000	3.3	174,000 (12.4)	939,000 (64)	814,000 (56)	365,000 (25)				
<i>Financial Times</i>	750,000	1.8	143,000 (19)	327,000 (43)	570,000 (71)	225,000 (29)				

Source: Audit Bureau of Circulation

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Vasectomy husband wins £9,000

A couple who had a sixth child three years after the husband had a £20 vasectomy operation, were awarded £9,617 by a judge at Exeter Crown Court yesterday.

Mr Donald Thake, a railway guard aged 45, of Bideford, Kent, and his wife, Patricia, said the surgeon Mr Brian Maurice, of Rotherfield, East Sussex, who carried out the operation in 1975.

Mr Justice Paine, in his judgment, said that in 1975 the couple had four children and a fifth was on the way. Mr Thake was having difficulty managing on his pay and decided on the vasectomy.

The judge said the Thakes denied any warning was given to them and circumstances pointed strongly to the absence of any clear warning.

Mental health care: 2

High ideals fail to end the squalor

The Government is planning to accelerate the policy of letting the community care for its mentally ill by closing more hospitals over the next 10 years. In the second part of a series, COLIN HUGHES considers the development and implications of the policy.

For 25 years, since the Mental Health Act, 1959, those who care for mentally ill people have built what seemed an impregnable consensus. All agreed that no mentally ill patient should stay in hospital any longer than medically necessary.

What began as a reaction against the horrors of overcrowded hospitals full of forgotten patients, resembling Victorian workhouses more than centres of treatment, quickly became imbued with the liberal ideal of freedom for every individual, including those with disturbed minds.

Hospitals were not to be salves for a society embarrassed by mental sickness. The gates were to shut people out, and the community should accept responsibility for tending them back to full health.

The slogan "community care", stood unquestioned until the unanimity was quietly but formally broken by a statement issued by several voluntary organizations recently, led by the National Schizophrenia Fellowship and the Richmond Fellowship.

The statement, since taken up by health service unions, urged the Government "to reject the idea that the life of a long-stay mental hospital patient is necessarily worse than life as a homeless vagrant, which is for many the only alternative".

The people who fought so long for community care are suddenly anxious that the policy is being used as an excuse for cash cuts.

The numbers of mentally ill in hospitals fell from 154,000 in 1954 to 70,000 last year. Among every 10,000 people in England and Wales, 17 have been discharged from a mental hospital, but only one has found his or her way into local authority care.

The Department of Health and Social Security has repeatedly recognized the need for planning and funds. A 1981 consultative document, *Care in the Community*, led to improved joint funding to encourage social services and health authorities to provide hostels, group homes and day centres, but the authorities have proved reluctant to take on further commitments at a time of cuts.

even though they will not begin to foot the bill for another 10 years.

The document also expected the closing of 30 of our 100 mental hospitals. It is the announcement of the first of those plans which sparked the recent protest by voluntary organizations.

Accommodation is not the only problem. Of the few who do reach local authority care now, only 20 per cent are cared for by trained staff.

Despite the alarm, Mind, the largest mental health pressure group, remains firmly behind the policy. Mr Simon Hebditch, a national director, says freedom for ill people to develop their own lives outside institutions implies a necessary level of risk. "Perhaps that is a price we have to pay," he says.

Last year's Mental Health Act reinforced the 1959 law, saying people cannot be committed to a mental hospital unless they are a danger to themselves or others.

Those who are left to judge, often police officers picking up former patients sleeping in shop doorways, are unqualified to decide if a paranoid or deluded person should be committed.

Mr Terry Hammond, a housing association researcher who studied people discharged from mental hospitals in Southampton, found most living in the worst bed-and-breakfast places in town.

One in five needed to be readmitted within three years, most several times. They spent their days wandering the seaford, their symptoms worsening for lack of stimulation.

Landlords have leapt at the opportunity of easy cash. In London the Department of Health and Social Security is paying them rents of more than £100 a week to house mental patients, when the voluntary organizations say they can provide well-staffed accommodation for three-quarters the price.

Last year's Residential Homes Act will begin to tackle the problem, by requiring an inspection of private premises, and raising the registration fee from £1 to several hundred pounds.

However, the Act's enforcement has been delayed until September by discussions over details, and landlords are taking advantage of the delay.

In Portsmouth, where Mr Hammond now works, one new lodging house is being registered with social services every eight days.

Tomorrow: Hospital closures



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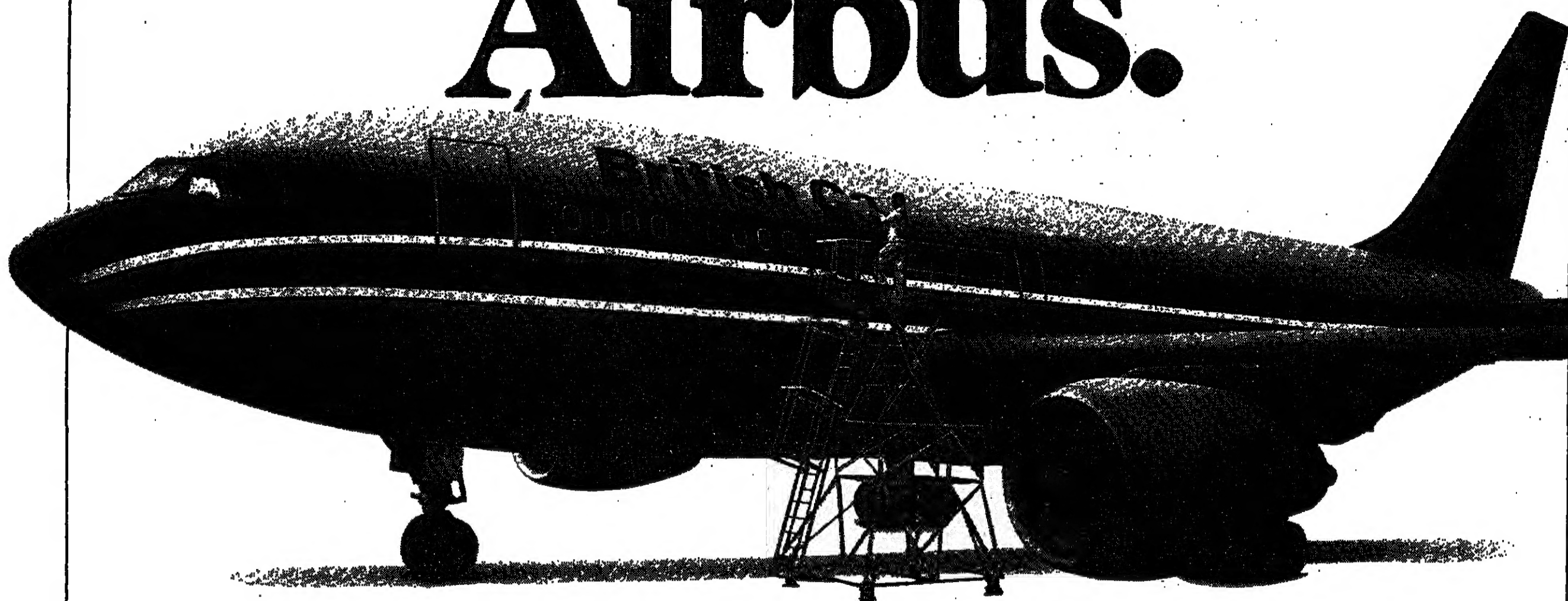
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Only British Airways now fly direct to all these cities, without changing planes, and you can save as much as 3 hours. And from May 1st, you can fly new improved Super Club Class, with the widest seat in the air. For further details, contact your local travel agent or British Airways or Page the Oracle (176) or Prestel (313).

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No prizes for guessing which one.

We're the British airline that's independent—which makes us very dependent on our passengers.

(Last year, we flew over 2 million of them to 24 countries in 5 continents.)

We're also the British airline that's Airline of the Year.

(Thank you, readers of Executive Travel magazine.)

We're the British airline that's famous for its friendly, efficient hostesses.

(They're recognisable by their cheerful smiles and tartan uniforms.)

And the British airline that operates out of London-Gatwick, the fifth largest international airport in the world.

(From May 14th, just 30 minutes from

Victoria by the new Gatwick Express.)

As from today, we're also the British airline that flies the new Airbus A310.

(Initially, it'll be serving part of our African network.)

The A310 is the most advanced wide-bodied jet of its kind in the world.

Its unique video-display flight deck was designed with the help of more than 50 pilots from 15 airlines.

It's a passenger's dream, too.

Whether you travel economy or First Class, you'll find the aircraft supremely comfortable and quiet.

In fact, the new Airbus is the perfect way to fly.

Especially now it's got our name on it.

We never forget you have a choice.

British Caledonian

(As if you didn't know)

AND
Pr
cau
20

Gulf
Air

Hazhir

It is a... could... half... and... an... of... the... borders... Iraq... it is... sense... less... military... to... which... a... ruled... the... As a result... miles... of... beyond... the... regulation... northern... under... Saddam... a... the... the... In other... brought... to... the... who... from... poor... number... the... of... despite... reference... the... of... alone... of... the... aspirations... Only in the... where... 100... no... any... on... There are... Russia... expenditure... to... exploiting... For the... of... hard... struggle... parties... a... fight... against... the... the... old... had... no... reached... the... movement... and... raised... in... The... of... Iran... led by...

Gun
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Washington (AP) — An... Center... suffered... when... a... Mr Robert... 43... was... in the... by... of the... fired... of his... hospital... The... confirmed that Mr...

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Angola deal and Pretoria pact cause Moscow acute unease

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Both the South African agreement with Mozambique and Cuba's recent agreement with Angola have caused acute unease in Moscow, which sees the latest turn of events as a blow to Soviet influence.

Western and African diplomats said Mozambique's non-aggression treaty with Pretoria, signed on March 16, was a particular setback for the Soviet Union. "The sight of a smiling Samora Machel shaking hands with Mr Botha did not please the Russians one little bit," one diplomat commented.

Moscow has always regarded Angola and Mozambique as its Marxist allies in black Africa. The withdrawal of 10,000 Cubans from Ethiopia and the prospect of a phased Cuban withdrawal from Angola also threaten to widen the cracks in the Kremlin's African policy, which is based on convincing black Africa that the United States stands behind an implacably racist and aggressive South Africa.

The Cuban move to pull some of its troops out of Angola is viewed with deep suspicion in Moscow. "It is a mistake to suppose that the Cubans always do what the Russians tell them," one African diplomat remarked. "Sometimes Castro does what suits him." Diplomats said the Cuban Foreign Minister, Señor Isidoro Malmeria, had paid an unannounced four-day visit to Moscow last week to discuss the Cuban-Angolan agreement, signed during a visit to Havana by Angola's leader, President Eduardo Dos Santos.

The Cuban-Angolan agreement contains a bitter condemnation of South African apartheid, and makes the withdrawal of Cubans from Angola conditional on an end to South African and American support

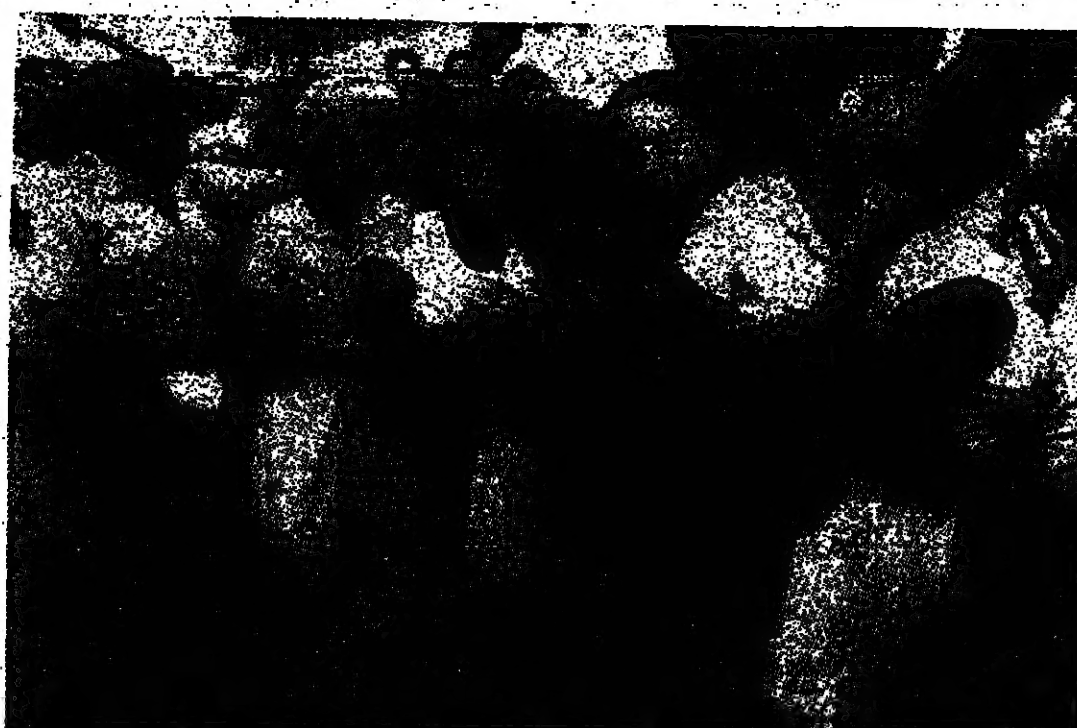
for Unita, the Angolan rebel force led by Dr Jonas Savimbi.

This is enough, however, to alarm the Russians and to raise the possibility that the Namibian question might now be settled. The withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola is a South African precondition for a Namibian settlement. The Russians were quick to point out that Mr Pik Botha, Pretoria's Foreign Minister, had described United Nations Resolution 435 on Namibia as "unacceptable" in a speech in Winhoek.

The Russians have also taken a close look at the related South African-Angolan agreement on the disengagement of South African forces from Angolan territory and Pretoria's undertaking not to attack Swapo (South West African People's Organization) guerrilla bases inside Angola.

All these moves - coupled with hints that Luanda might even neutralize Dr Savimbi by coming to terms with him - have brought forth a barrage of attacks on South Africa in the Soviet media designed to remind black Africa that "racists apart, the brutal essence of the racist remains unchanged," as Tass put it on Sunday. The Soviet argument is that Pretoria is only flirting with the frontline states while seeking to force them into submission, with the backing of the US.

Sources said the visit to Moscow last week by Algerian Information Minister, Mr Bachir Rouis, was part of a drive by Moscow to remind Mozambique and Angola that their first responsibility is to organizations such as Swapo in Namibia and the banned African National Congress (ANC) in South Africa.



Rush to vote: Salvadoreans queuing for hours in the presidential election. Right, Acting President Alvaro Magana at the ballot box.

Marcos regime accused of brazen gerrymandering

From Keith Dalton, Manila

"Brazen and massive irregularities" marred weekend voter registrations for parliamentary elections in the Philippines in May, a citizens' election monitoring group claimed yesterday. Some 83,000 registration centres were set up in the country in accordance with President Marcos's promise to bring up to date a 20-year-old voters' list, which Opposition leaders alleged was full of dead people and babies.

Simultaneous registration of

thousands of voters hostile to the Government was carried out at 10 People's Boycott Centres in Manila for people who intend to defy the law and not vote. They say the elections, the first polls since martial law was lifted in 1981, will only legitimize the 18-year-old rule of President Marcos.

"I have been in this movement for clean elections over the past 15 to 20 years, but I have never seen such brazen acts of double registration than what I have seen over the weekend," Mr Jose Concepcion,

the chairman of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections, said yesterday.

The organization, which has the support of the Roman Catholic Church, fielded 20,000 "poll watchers" throughout the country last weekend and will do the same this weekend, when the four-day registration period ends.

Mr Concepcion said many of his "poll watchers" found well-organized, systematic ferrying of registrants in buses and lorries from one polling centre

to another, where they registered under fictitious names.

These "flying voters", as they are called, were well organized and they made a lot of money, Mr Concepcion alleged.

"In a number of municipalities a voter would register in one precinct, then go to another precinct and register under a different name and different address. A number of people registered 19 to 20 times.

He feared, he said, that the May elections could be jeopardized. "If we are not able to purge this list then we will have

many fictitious voters and, as a result, it will nullify the true results of the elections.

Although Mr Concepcion's organization was still compiling its report, the Commission on Elections, whose seven members are Marcos appointees, has dismissed as "untrue" the claims of massive registration irregularities.

The 45-day election period begins today, with most observers predicting that the ruling New Society Movement will win the majority of the 183 seats which all contested.

Thatcher's Times article denounced

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

The Kremlin yesterday attacked Mrs Margaret Thatcher's article in *The Times* on Nato's new realism in the face of the Soviet military threat.

A "toughly-worded" Tass commentary said Mrs Thatcher was arguing "in the teeth of signs by which the deployment of cruise and Pershing 2 last autumn countered Russia's monopoly on medium-range missiles and would therefore reduce the risk of war."

"The British Prime Minister has made another attempt to justify Nato's adventurist policy of whipping up the arms race," Tass said. Mrs Thatcher's professed desire for arms agreements was "in stark contrast with the stubborn unwillingness of the Tory Government to take practical measures to curb the arms race."

The Tass outburst came on the eve of a visit to London by Mr Georgy Kornienko, the Deputy Foreign Minister. A planned visit by him last September was seen as a sign of improved Anglo-Soviet relations.

The Tass attack on *The Times* article seemed to mark a return to Moscow's disapproval of the "Iron Lady" *Pravda* carried a front-page cartoon depicting Mrs Thatcher as the British lion's head and tail in the grip of an elephant, with Mr Reagan's features

Gulf war helps the Kurds to fight on

By Hazhir Teimourian

If anyone could be said to have benefited directly from the three and a half years of war between Iran and Iraq, it must be the Kurds, an ancient nation of some 20 million people, mainly hill farmers striding the borders of Turkey, the Soviet Union, Iran, Iraq and Syria.

The benefit is mainly political, in the sense that the two warring countries have been less able to exert their fullest military might to destroy the armed Kurdish movements which seek a measure of home rule for their regions.

As a result, about 10,000 miles of the western mountains and valleys of Iran are still beyond the reach of Ayatollah Khomeini five years after his revolution. Similarly, the northern mountains of Iraq are outside the control of President Saddam Hussein 23 years after a rebellion was started there by the late Kurdish leader, General Mustafa Barzani.

In other respects, war has brought even greater hardship to the life of the average Kurd, who tries to eke out a living from the poor soil, scanty commerce, or smuggling.

In eastern Turkey, where the greatest number of Kurds live, the shadow of the Turkish Army has not shortened, despite elections. The merest reference to the name of the Kurds continues to be a serious offence, let alone the speaking of Kurdish or any encouragement of the Kurds' political aspirations.

Only in the Soviet Union, where about 100,000 Kurds are too few to represent a threat, is any sum of money being spent on their literature and history.

There are signs that the Russians are increasing such expenditure, apparently hoping to improve their chances of exploiting resentment.

For the moment, the attention of most Kurds goes to the lonely struggle of their compatriots in Iran and Iraq, who fight on against heavy odds to win recognition for their separate cultural identity.

The old proverb that the Kurd has no friend still holds. No significant foreign help reaches the autonomy-seeking movements and their plight is never raised in international gatherings.

The struggle of the Kurds of Iran is led by a former



Mr Talabani: Hangings set back peace initiative.

Sorbonne lecturer in economic planning, Dr Abdolrahman Oassemlou, who commands the Kurdistan Democratic Party's 12,000 full-time guerrillas against 80,000 Iranian troops. In Iraq the leadership of the movement is split between Mr Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union and Mr Idris Barzani's Democratic Party.

Mr Barzani has aligned himself with Iran and lives near Tehran, but Mr Talabani has been engaged in negotiations with the Government of Iraq, hoping to be given charge of an autonomous Kurdish regional authority in the north in return for joining the Iraqi Army in the defence of the country's borders with Iran.

The Government has been dragging its feet in the negotiations, and when it hanged 25 supporters of the Patriotic Union recently for trying to evade military service, it seemed the talks were doomed.

The titanic struggles of the empires of Russia, Ottoman Turkey, Persia, Britain and France over the past 300 years, which left the carcass of Kurdistan so torn apart, continue to affect for the worse the daily existence of today's Kurdish hill farmers.



Gunman wounds US envoy in Strasbourg

Strasbourg (AP) - The American Consul-General here yesterday suffered superficial wounds when a gunman fired five shots at him.

Mr Robert Onan Homme, aged 43, was only slightly injured in the face, neck and chest by the small-calibre bullets fired through the windows of his car. A Strasbourg hospital spokesman said. No surgery was needed. The US Embassy in Paris confirmed that Mr Homme was

only slightly wounded. A spokesman for the French Foreign Ministry condemned the attack and expressed the Government's sympathy for Mr Homme and his family.

Witnesses said a man of Asiatic appearance shot Mr Homme moments after the diplomat got into his car outside his home in suburban Strasbourg at about 9 am. The force of the shots was lessened by the windscreen and windows, police said.

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After the summit: Looking for a way forward

France and Italy hold key to progress at today's talks on EEC cash crisis

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Government is hoping that today's meeting of EEC foreign ministers in Brussels will build a platform from which they can move towards resolution of the Community's cash quarrels before June. But Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is said to be attending with an open mind and no firm expectations of results.

He and his advisers want the foreign ministers to consolidate the points agreed at last week's summit in Brussels, before it started to fall apart.

The British team is not prepared to compromise on any of the principles involved, but is

clearly ready to negotiate over detail in the hope that agreement can be reached.

Today's meeting, quickly called by the French after the summit collapsed, should determine "whether we are back in business or not", one source said. If the answer to this is in the affirmative it is hoped that the Ten can start moving forward at their next scheduled meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council in two weeks' time.

Whitehall would like to see agreement reached before June when the European Parliamentary elections are due. But much today could depend on how

readily France and Italy agree to drop their objections to paying the £457m rebate due to Britain.

● **Hope of deal:** The possibility of a Community agreement being reached before the European Assembly elections on June 14 was floated by senior Whitehall sources yesterday. (Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent, writes).

It was said last night that President Mitterand's determination to break last week's impasse could just push the Ten into an outline deal on Britain's budget contributions.

French use Thatcher as scapegoat for all ills

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Tens of thousands of farmers demonstrated throughout France yesterday against milk quotas, cuts in farm prices, the enlargement of the Community and Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

The British Prime Minister has become the French farmers' *bête noir* and scapegoat for all their complaints. Mr Francois Guillaume, the leader of the biggest farmers' union, was the most vociferous last week among those calling for the exclusion of Britain from the EEC as a solution to everyone's problems.

In Lyons, anti-British slogans, such as "blow up Thatcher" and "dump Thatcher in the sea", were in evidence as about 5,000 farmers marched through the town. A Union flag outside a hotel was torn down and trampled underfoot. "We want to make Mrs Thatcher understand that we will not accept that she ruins us any further," one farmer said.

At Portiragnes, near Beziers in the south-west, a group of about 30 wine-growers wearing masks set fire to two houses belonging to a British boat-hire company, Richardson Beaver Fleet, based in Norwich, causing damage worth nearly £100,000. Police have opened an inquiry.

By and large, the demonstrations passed peacefully (for France). Reports of police clashing with protesters or using tear gas were relatively rare. Severe traffic jams were nevertheless caused throughout the country as farmers erected barricades of tractors, burning tyres and felled trees, on motorways and access roads into towns.

The most violent action yesterday was in the Languedoc-Roussillon region in the south-west where wine-growers, who had already gone on the rampage on Saturday, blowing up railway lines and cutting telephone cables, attacked three tax offices, breaking down doors.

The growers were protesting about the EEC proposal to cut subsidies for short-term storage, the fall in table wine prices and the decision to allow Spain to enter the community, which will mean a further flooding of the overflying EEC table wine "lake".

Bomb blast at British consulate

Baghdad, (AFP) - An Iraqi citizen was wounded yesterday when a bomb exploded inside the British consulate here, he is suspected of having planted the bomb himself.

He was alone in a room of the consulate when the bomb which was in a small package went off.

Several students were in the consulate taking English lessons at the time.

British and foreign diplomats have recently received threats signed by the "Islamic Jihad".

Farm talks crucial to break the deadlock

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The EEC's "Irish problem" dogged the outset of yesterday's agriculture ministers' meeting in Brussels, which was trying to reach agreement on some of the issues left unresolved by last week's summit.

Ireland is pressing for special case treatment by the Community when it brings in more stringent rules to cut milk production.

Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Prime Minister, walked out of the summit when other leaders, including Mrs Margaret Thatcher, rejected out of hand a suggested compromise to allow Ireland to produce one million tonnes of milk more than would be allowed under the new rules.

Success at the Agriculture Council, which was meant to continue today is seen as an important key for helping to end the deadlock over negotiations on the British EEC budget problem. These negotiations are due to resume in Brussels among foreign ministers.

From the outset of yesterday's meeting Mr Austin Deasy, the Irish minister, claimed that his country was no longer prepared to consider the compromise on the table at the summit. He wanted the offer increased further. Faced with this tougher position, Mr Michel Rocard, the French minister, said that he would end the meeting early unless there could be quick progress.

Mr Michael Jopling, the British minister, has argued that the Community simply cannot afford having Ireland produce

the extra million tonnes, each of which costs about £150 to dispose of. It would wipe out all the hoped for savings this year on cutting back EEC dairy production. But Mr Jopling said, if Ireland were to be given an exemption he would insist on equal treatment for dairy farmers in Northern Ireland.

The foreign ministers today are expected to adopt equally tough positions on the British budget question. Whereas Britain believes that it has moved a long way towards meeting the position of the other nine EEC capitals, that Mrs Thatcher has been destructively intransigent.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the foreign Secretary, will point out that Britain in fact has agreed to a change in the way its net contribution to the Community is defined. The new method makes it look as though Britain pays nearly £200m less than the £1,200m it expects to hand over to Brussels this year. This means any rebate will be calculated against a lower base.

He will also point out that Mrs Thatcher reduced her rebate demand from £900m to £750m.

Britain is particularly concerned that West Germany apparently is refusing to pay its normal share of any rebate above this amount. This adds to the resistance of the other countries, who would have to find the extra money if it were agreed, and makes it more difficult than ever to find a mechanism for a permanent solution.

Bonn rejects British criticism of Kohl

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, has a meeting at the weekend with Sir Jock Taylor, the British Ambassador, as cautious optimism was being voiced in political circles here that the crisis in the European Community could still be overcome.

Herr Genscher was evidently intent on clearing up what he saw as a misunderstanding of the West German position at the Brussels summit.

Meanwhile, Herr Peter Bönisch, the German spokesman, rejected British press criticism of Chancellor Kohl at the summit, and said the report in *The Observer* - laying much of the blame for the breakdown at the Germans' door, and widely quoted here - was "incorrect in this form". He said Herr Kohl did not present his compromise proposal until after the British had rejected the French suggestion.

Herr Genscher has insisted on maintaining a conciliatory tone in public towards Britain. He told yesterday's issue of *Der Spiegel* that West Germany has a special interest in Britain remaining a member of the Community, flatly rejected calls for its expulsion and said Britain needed Europe as much as Europe needed Britain.

He suggested help could be given to Britain by the adoption of even stricter economy measures in some fields. But his

remarks have been contrasted here with the more hardline approach of Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the influential Minister of Finance, who said more had already been offered to Britain than seemed objectively justified to him.

Since the Brussels summit the Germans have insisted that they went as far as they could in meeting Britain's demands for a budget settlement. Newspaper commentators have been almost unanimous in blaming Mrs Margaret Thatcher's intransigence for the summit's failure, which was a bitter blow to Bonn. As the largest net contributors, the Germans have said they sympathize with Mrs Thatcher's call for tougher budgetary discipline, but they resented her willingness to risk a break-up of the Community to achieve this.

Herr Kohl himself has continued to emphasize the importance of the Paris-Bonn axis, without which, he has insisted, there can be no progress towards European integration.

In spite of Government denials his remarks have encouraged a new wave of speculation that he favours a "speedy Europe" with the core founding members taking the lead in pushing Europe forwards.



Food for thought: Mr Mondale holding up an apron with a bagel presented to him at a food store while campaigning in New York

Hart tipped for Connecticut

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington



Senator Gary Hart is counting on a strong win in today's primary in Connecticut to boost his chances in next Tuesday's key contest in New York.

According to a poll published in *Harford Courant* yesterday, Mr Hart was leading his chief rival, Mr Walter Mondale, 48 to 28 per cent, the Rev Jesse Jackson was trailing in third place with 3 per cent, while 19 per cent of voters were uncommitted.

However, Mr Jackson spent most of the weekend campaigning in Connecticut and is believed to have increased his support both among black voters in cities such as Bridgeport, New Haven and Hartford, as well as among the State's large student community.

Mr Hart's flagging campaign received a much-needed fillip

on Sunday with a victory in the Democratic county caucuses which were held in the Rocky Mountain state of Montana. The senator came first with 49 per cent of the vote, which will give him an additional 11 delegates at the party convention in San Francisco, compared to 35 per cent (8 delegates) for Mr Mondale. Mr Jackson won 3 per cent.

It was Mr Hart's first victory since the "Super Tuesday" primaries and caucuses on March 17. None of the candidates had campaigned in the state this year, Mr Mondale relied on organized labour and teachers to get out his supporters, while Mr Hart mounted a big advertising campaign.

Connecticut has not played such a key role in the Democratic presidential selection process since 1960, when the state's leaders were in the forefront of President Kennedy's election.

Believing that Mr Mondale would have already wrapped up the nomination contest by now, most of the state's Democratic leaders endorsed the former Vice-President long ago.

However, Mr Hart's string of unexpected successes in neighbouring New England states has swung the pendulum strongly in his favour, with the result that he has now begun to pick up support from prominent party figures, such as Senator Christopher Dodd and Mr Abraham Ribicoff, a former Governor of Connecticut who played a leading role in President Kennedy's election.

Mr Hart is counting on a heavy turn-out among the state's large number of young, urban and suburban professionals who work either in New York City or in the high-technology industries which have sprung up in the past few years.

Marksman kill jail escaper

Brussels (Reuters) - Police marksman from a crack anti-terrorist unit shot dead an escaped prisoner as he held a gun at a hostage's head outside the entrance of Louvain Jail.

Andreino Fabri, serving a 10-year sentence for armed robbery, was killed instantly by two bullets in the head fired from 100 yards by sharpshooters from the Brussels-based Diane squad. Peter Carlier, a convicted murderer and Fabri's accomplice in the jailbreak then gave himself up.

The two escaped after taking hostage the prison director and his deputy but police quickly sealed the area, forcing the escapers to remain with their hostages near the jail entrance.

Police shot dead in Sri Lanka

Colombo - Three Sinhalese policemen were shot dead by terrorists at Point Pedro in the northern province bringing the total of servicemen killed there in the past week to five.

The three were returning to their station after a game of volleyball. A police party which set out in search of the killers set fire to some shops and shot two civilians dead.

Border battle

Bangkok (AFP) - About 10 Vietnamese soldiers were killed when Thai gunners repelled some 300 Vietnamese troops who crossed into Thailand during clashes with Cambodian resistance fighters, Thai officials said.

Pilots sacked

Lagos (Reuters) - Nigeria Airways has sacked 287 striking pilots and flight engineers who have grounded all domestic and most international flights for three days. The strike over cuts in allowances, has stranded thousands of passengers.

Off-screen role: Barbra Streisand, the American actress, at a Rome press conference for her latest film 'Yentl'.

Labour acts to head off Israel election delay

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Israel's Labour opposition, anticipating a coalition filibuster of legislation for early elections, served notice yesterday that it will keep the Knesset in session during the recess, which begins next week, by producing 30 signatures every 24 hours requesting daily extraordinary sessions.

Mr Moshe Shabai, chairman of the Labour alignment announced the action after Mr Menachem Savidor, the

Speaker, rejected Labour's request to extend the session for another week so that the House could finish work on three private members' Bills, which passed their preliminary readings last Thursday and were referred to the Law Committee of the Knesset.

During the recess, the House may not deal with private members' Bills, but 30 members may request extraordinary sessions to propose motions

Despite the smoothness of the Sinai operation, there is deep resentment about the peace treaty among ordinary Egyptians - not necessarily the majority - which the Israelis fear may well be exploited in the Egyptian general election due in May.

During my visit to Cairo, the unease was forcefully expressed by a retired schoolmaster who was a strong supporter of President Mubarak and who showed few signs of radicalism. "Why should I ever consider going to Israel after what they have done to the Palestinians? I would rather visit any other place in the world."

Mr Mohammed Heikal, the prominent journalist, former confidant of President Nasser and bitter critic of President

Sadat, explained the widespread attitude of many Egyptians towards the peace. "Now that they have got the Sinai back, they do not really want to know anything more about it. There is a general sense of guilt about the treaty."

Mr Heikal spoke bitterly of the presence of Israelis in the flat below his headquarters of the small Israeli Academic Centre in Cairo. He told proudly of how he had turned down the opportunity of a meeting with Mr Abba Eban - one of Israel's more dovish politicians - which had been arranged for him by a Washington columnist.

The outspoken criticism by Mr Heikal and other Egyptian intellectuals - including a confident prediction that the

cultural agreement with Israel will not be renewed when it expires - tended to confirm many of the fears by the Israeli Government about the chances of any imminent improvement in relations.

But, judging from comments by members of the Egyptian hierarchy and of diplomats who have been monitoring the peace treaty since 1979, it does not necessarily mean that the first pact between Israel and an Arab state is at risk, or will be in the foreseeable future.

From the point of view of President Mubarak, "the Cold Peace" has permitted him to perform a diplomatic balancing act more successfully than most people had expected.

Concluded

US masses troops for Honduran exercise

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States is about to embark on huge military exercises in Honduras in a stepped-up campaign of intimidation directed against Cuban-supported left-wing guerrillas in Central America. It will be President Reagan's most assertive military move in the region.

The manoeuvres, code-named Granadero 1, will make America's presence felt throughout the region during a period of post-election tensions in El Salvador, which went to the polls on Sunday. The Americans feel there may soon be a renewed push by left-wing Salvadorean guerrillas.

There will also be large-scale American exercises in the Caribbean, code-named Ocean Venture 84, between the Marine Corps, the Air Force, Army and Navy. They will last for two weeks from April 20. At their height the two manoeuvres will involve 33,000 military personnel, dwarfing anything the Americans have undertaken since Mr Reagan decided last summer on a policy of military expansion in and around Central America. The invasion of Grenada was the most dramatic manifestation of the policy.

In Honduras the 864th Battalion of 800 soldiers from Fort Lewis, Washington, will build two assault airstrips near the borders of El Salvador and Nicaragua for use by C130 cargo and troop carriers. Making runways and building bridges was a priority during the big Pine 11 manoeuvres in Honduras last summer. It is apparent that the US has come to regard Central America's post-nation as a principal strategic military centre.

Some Congressmen are worried that under the guise of repeated "exercises" the Administration is steadily building up a substantial, permanent military presence in Honduras. The Granadero 1 exercises were originally scheduled to begin in June. They will now begin on Sunday.

The Pentagon said America's participation "reflects our resolve to reassure Central American nations of our continuing support and cooperation in the improvement of regional defence capabilities."

Privately, American officials describe the two new manoeuvres as part of a campaign of psychological warfare against the Salvadoran guerrillas and their Sandinista allies in Nicaragua. America has 1,900 military personnel in Honduras, including a military intelligence battalion which flies over Salvador and keeps watch on the lengthy, remote Honduran border with Nicaragua.

The new Honduran manoeuvres, may involve other Central American troops - Panama, Guatemala and El Salvador have been invited to join. General Paul Gorman, Commander of the US Southern Command in Panama, has been urging those countries, together with Honduras, to strengthen regional defence alliances to isolate Nicaragua. Historical grievances between the nations, however, continue to blight any improvement in regional military cooperation.

King Juan Carlos to visit Russia

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia of Spain will pay an official visit to the Soviet Union, probably in May, diplomatic sources confirmed here yesterday.

It will be the first visit on record by a Spanish head of state to the Soviet Union. Although the source did not specify whether Madrid or Moscow took the initiative in pressing the trip, it is clear for protocol reasons that the King and Queen would not go officially without receiving an invitation.

The official announcement of the visit has not yet been made and is not expected to be made until after the appointment of a new head of the Soviet state which is expected soon.

A royal visit was first discussed by both countries as long as six years ago, but there were repeated delays in fixing an appropriate date.

Relatively recent developments which temporarily stalled the trip were the death of President Andropov, and before that tensions arising from the incident in which the Soviet Air Force shot down a South Korean airliner last year.

Both before and after Mr Andropov's death the Spanish Government received assurances that the King and Queen would be welcomed and that by May a Soviet head of state would be named. This is important since for protocol reasons he would officially receive them.

The programme is expected to include stops in Moscow, Leningrad, and in one or more of the distant Soviet regions.

Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

Mr Edwin Meese is one of the most loyal and long-serving of President Reagan's entourage. No other senior member of the President's team has been with him continuously for so many years. Yet there is mounting anxiety among thoughtful Republicans in Washington that Mr Meese's difficulties may cause serious political embarrassment to Mr Reagan.

Now that a special prosecutor is to be appointed to look into Mr Meese's affairs, it is feared that there may be months of unfavourable publicity ahead, with the possibility of further disclosures and the certainty of continuing speculation. At the end of all this there can be no assurance that Mr Meese will be confirmed as Attorney General unless he is clearly exonerated by the special prosecutor.

There is little private sympathy for Mr Meese in Congress, among Democrats or Republicans. They have to live on exactly the same salary as he has had, most of them have had the same expense of moving their home to Washington, and they have not received interest-free loans for the purpose. They look askance at reports that the way to an appointment in the public service has lain through Mr Meese's pocket.

Dangerous in high office

None of this directly affects the President. Nobody is alleging any personal wrongdoing on his part. But the episode may come to affect him indirectly. He is a man who repays loyalty with loyalty, but while this is an admirable personal trait it is dangerous in high office when it takes precedence over objective standards and general principles of good government.

One of Reagan's most remarkable political talents has been to dissociate himself from any failures in his Administration. Whenever something has gone wrong he has none the less managed to ride on, high in public esteem. But in this instance he is deliberately associating himself as closely as he can with Mr Meese.

Not only the President refusing to withdraw his nomination of Attorney General, but he is keeping him on active duty in the White House while the inquiry proceeds, and has expressed his confidence that the special prosecutor will confirm Mr Meese's integrity.

Mr Reagan is acting entirely in character. He is very much an anecdotal person, moved by individual people and particular events. Mr Meese is a man in whom he has placed great trust over the years, so the President will stick by his friend when he is in trouble. So long as the trouble is not too serious Mr Reagan will not suffer. But if much more sticks to Mr Meese the President will find himself accused of indulging private friendship at the expense of public responsibility.

Already the Democrats are alleging that this is but the latest example of a sleazy Administration. It is said that some 40 people have been forced to leave on grounds of misconduct of one sort or another. The accusation that Mr Reagan will need to guard against is that for all his generosity to old friends, he is careless in preserving those standards of clean government which it is his duty to uphold.

Appeal of his personality

There are some Republicans who see this clearly enough now. They foresee the danger of this episode dragging on for months with the Administration on the defensive and the agenda of politics turned to its disadvantage. The focus of attention would be not on the strength of the President, the appeal of his personality or the achievements of his first term, but on the ethical standards of his team. The issue of "Debategate" - the alleged theft of the Carter briefing papers before the television debate in 1980 - might be reopened.

Some of these anxious Republicans would therefore prefer Mr Meese to leave the Administration now of his own free will. They do not believe that he will do so, nor that Mr Reagan can be persuaded at this stage to ask him to withdraw. There is at this moment no widespread desire among Republicans on Capitol Hill to apply pressure on the President. But there will be if the matter is not resolved in a month or so. The Republican Party will not want this sort of fester in election year.

Keeping to the letter, but not to the spirit of the treaty

Aftermath of the Egypt-Israeli pact

Five years ago Egypt and Israel signed the treaty which ended 30 years of war between them. In the second of two articles, Christopher Walker gives the Egyptian perspective on 'the Cold Peace'.



Part 2

When Air Sinai flight AD 054 takes off from Cairo's chaotic desert airport there is no way of telling from the departure board that its destination is Tel Aviv. For

reasons of political discretion, five years after the signing of the peace treaty, no mention is made of the fact that an Arab airline is flying regularly to Israel.

In similar vein, the Israeli Government had a pavilion at this month's international trade fair in Cairo. With the Star of David fluttering, all appeared remarkably normal, until depressed-looking Israeli exhibitors (those few who could be persuaded to take part) explained that import licences were not being granted.

Both examples are symptomatic of the skilful way in which the government of President Mubarak is sticking faithfully to the letter of the treaty, while at the same time doing nothing to encourage the

spirit of full-hearted cooperation that Israel had once hoped for.

"What you have is an armistice which is working very well, a few economic and other contacts and that is about all", an envoy in Cairo said. "Given the invasion of Lebanon and Egypt's position in the Arab world, it is hard to see how, in present circumstances, Israel can expect anything more."

The diplomat represented one of the 10 nations participating in the multinational peace force in the Sinai, the last segment of which was handed back by Israel in April 1982. The force is known locally as "the forgotten army" because of the refreshing lack of incidents between the two sides.

Despite the smoothness of the Sinai operation, there is deep resentment about the peace treaty among ordinary Egyptians - not necessarily the majority - which the Israelis fear may well be exploited in the Egyptian general election due in May.

During my visit to Cairo, the unease was forcefully expressed by a retired schoolmaster who was a strong supporter of President Mubarak and who showed few signs of radicalism. "Why should I ever consider going to Israel after what they have done to the Palestinians? I would rather visit any other place in the world."

Mr Mohammed Heikal, the prominent journalist, former confidant of President Nasser and bitter critic of President

Sadat, explained the widespread attitude of many Egyptians towards the peace. "Now that they have got the Sinai back, they do not really want to know anything more about it. There is a general sense of guilt about the treaty."

Mr Heikal spoke bitterly of the presence of Israelis in the flat below his headquarters of the small Israeli Academic Centre in Cairo. He told proudly of how he had turned down the opportunity of a meeting with Mr Abba Eban - one of Israel's more dovish politicians - which had been arranged for him by a Washington columnist.

The outspoken criticism by Mr Heikal and other Egyptian intellectuals - including a confident prediction that the

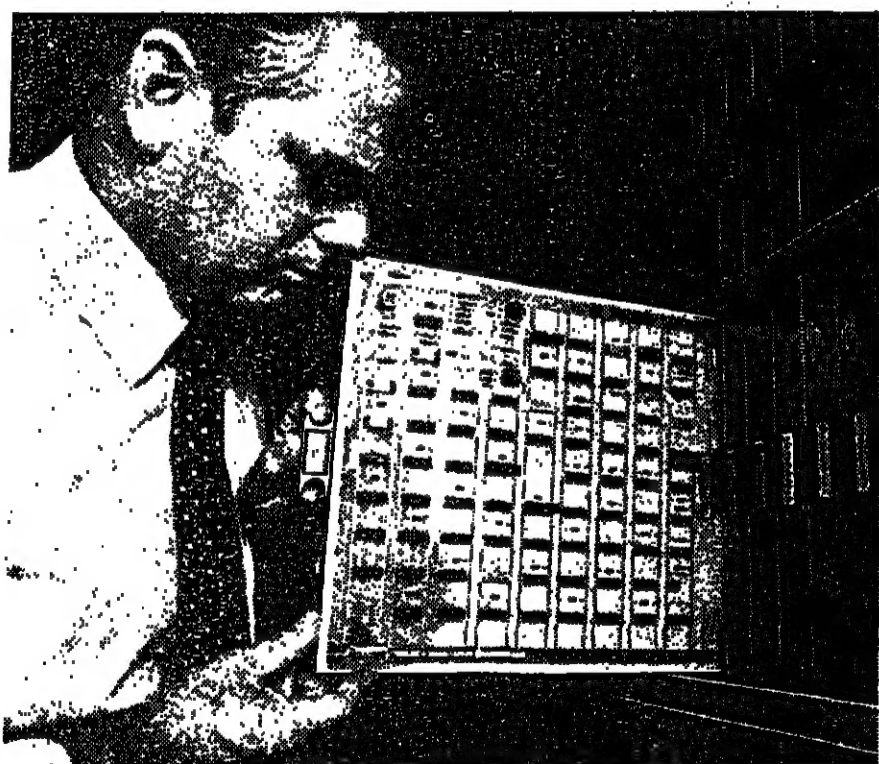
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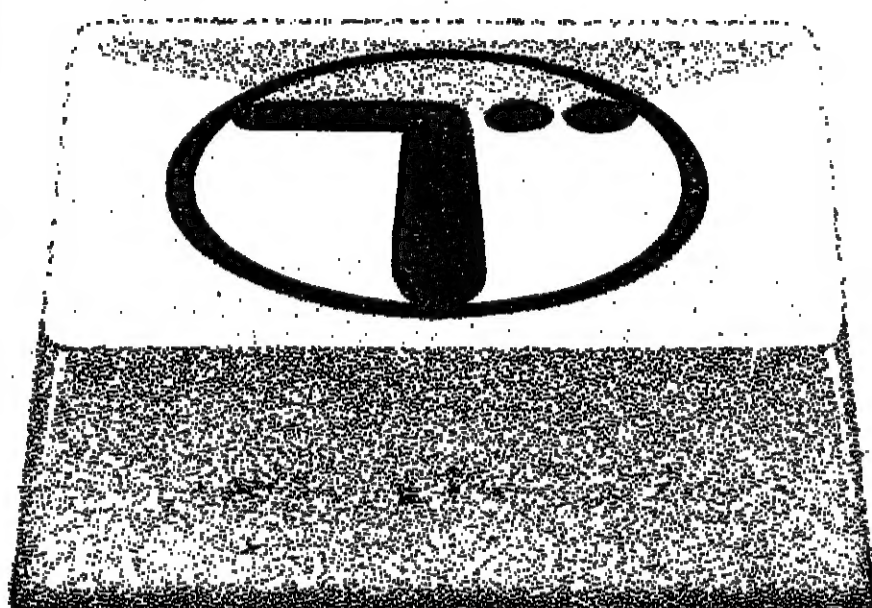
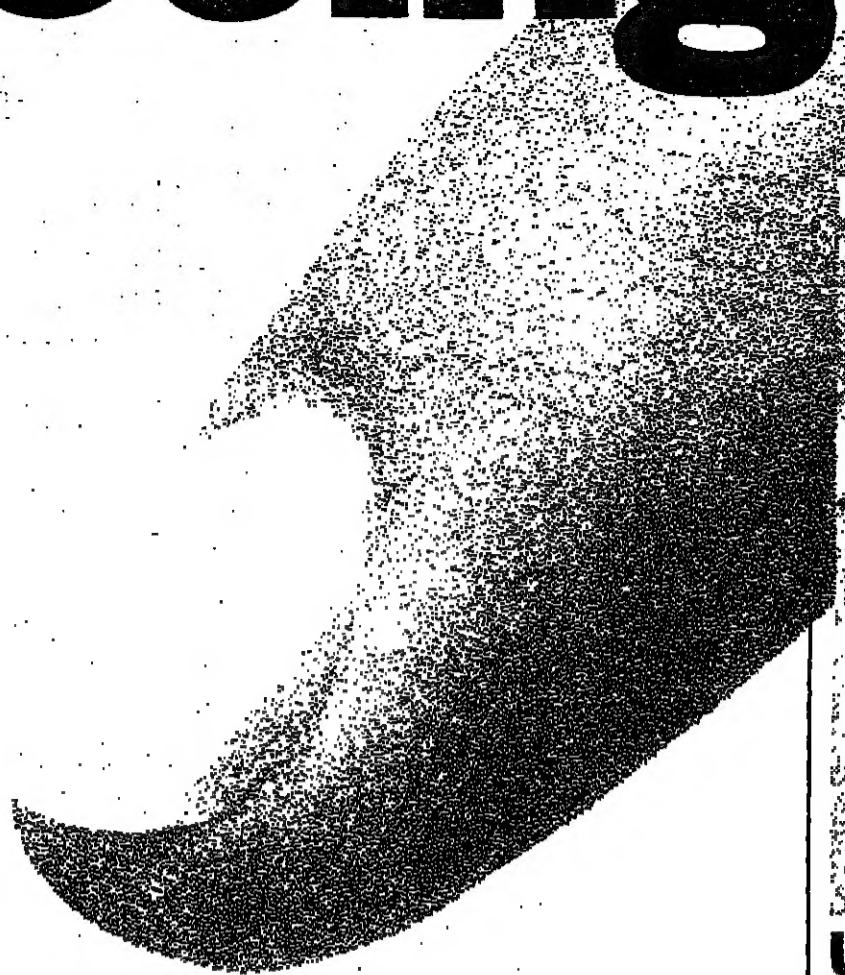


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UN tries to break Cyprus logjam

From Mario Modiano
Athens

Famagusta, once a favourite resort for British holidaymakers but now a decaying ghost town guarded by Turkish troops, is at the centre of a United Nations initiative to break the Cyprus deadlock.

Senior Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary General, has asked the Turks to hand over Famagusta's Greek quarter of Varosha to the United Nations, so that its 40,000 Greek Cypriot inhabitants can return to their homes after living as refugees for a decade.

The Secretary General wants the surrender of Varosha as a from of amends for the Turkish Cypriot unilateral declaration of an independent state in the occupied north of the island last November. The action was formally condemned by the Security Council and most countries of the world.

The surrender to the UN of part of Varosha, to be held in hand pending a final settlement of the Cyprus problem, had been proposed by Mr Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader, soon after the declaration of independence, as a gesture to the Greek Cypriots.

The offer, however, was conditional and no refugees would be allowed to settle in the deserted city until a final settlement was achieved. But the Greek Cypriots refused to resume a dialogue until the unilateral declaration of independence was rescinded.

The Secretary-General is trying to get the Turkish Cypriots to give up all conditions and enlarge the area offered so that, first, access from the Greek sector would be ensured (not via the British sovereign base), and secondly, that the part of the town where the old municipal office was located would also be returned.

Under Señor Pérez de Cuéllar's initiative, the handing over of Varosha to the UN would be combined with a "freeze" of all secessionist actions in the self-styled "Turkish republic of northern Cyprus).

In return, the Greek Cypriots would agree to sit at the negotiating table to discuss a permanent federal solution for Cyprus. They would also undertake not to raise the Cyprus issue at the United Nations or other international forums while the intercommunal negotiations were being held.

The proposal, endorsed by the Greek Cypriots, was put to Mr Denktas by the Secretary-General in New York earlier this month. Mr Denktas reserved his reply until he had consulted his associates.

However, remarks made by him in Istanbul last week, after a meeting with President Evren of Turkey, left little room for optimism. Without rejecting the UN initiative, he called it prejudices in favour of the Greek side.

Senior Pérez de Cuéllar is believed to have cautioned the Turkish side that, if his current initiative fails, the Greeks and the Greek Cypriots may be tempted to put in effect contingency plans agreed in Athens this month, which are said to include the dispatch of Greek troops to Cyprus to match Turkey's military presence there, now estimated at 17,500 troops.

The Greeks, however, suspect that the delay in reacting to the UN Secretary-General's proposals may have been prompted by Turkey's desire to prolong the uncertainty until after the US Congress, which is highly sensitive to the Cyprus question, has endorsed President Reagan's foreign aid bill.

Six-year drought brings disaster to Brazil

Recife (NYT) - A severe drought, now in its sixth year, is causing devastation across north-eastern Brazil, but bureaucratic problems and a feeling of national embarrassment appear to be standing in the way of much-needed international assistance.

Although this poor and semi-arid region has long suffered from dry spells, the present disaster in tiny north-eastern Brazilian states is considered the worst in the country's recorded history, with almost total loss of crops in the area in the last year. Foreign aid experts here are comparing the harm done to human life and nature to that caused by the current great drought in sub-Saharan Africa.

It is killing adults and children, cattle and crops, and tens of thousands continue to flee the area. Members of a team from the International Committee of the Red Cross told diplomats on a recent visit that they had seen severe and irreversible medical damage on a large scale.

They said that in recent months infant mortality rates in some of the worst areas had jumped to 250 deaths per 1,000 births, higher than almost anywhere else in the world.

According to the Government, the drought has affected in some way 25 million of the more than 36 million people living in the region, as many as the entire population of Central America.



Fruitful trip: Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone (right), Japan's Prime Minister, getting to know his onions at Peking's peasant market at the end of his four-day visit to China.

Germany rolls out red carpet for general at heart of crisis

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

A traditional military tattoo was held yesterday evening in the Nutsdadt Barracks near Marburg to mark the official retirement of General Günter Kiesling, the four-star Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Nato, whose dismissal as a security risk and subsequent reinstatement earlier this year caused a crisis for Chancellor Kohl's Government.

The ceremony was held as a parliamentary investigation into the scandal concluded its work with a devastating indictment of the military counter-intelligence service making the unpunished allegations that the general had visited homosexual bars in Cologne. The committee is likely to recommend a thorough purging of the service, and the dismissal of many leading officers.

At the tattoo were both Herr Manfred Wörner, the Defence Minister, who came under pressure to resolve the affair, and General Bernard Rogers, the Nato Commander-in-Chief whose cool relations with General Kiesling were the subject of political speculation and gossip in Bonn and at the

Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (Shape) in Mons.

General Wolfgang Altenburg, the General Inspector of the Bundeswehr, who initially supported General Kiesling's dismissal was also present in Neustadt, where, as commander of the tank grenadier battalion between 1967 and 1970, General Kiesling said he spent the happiest years of his life.

His official retirement comes eight weeks after he was

reinstated with full honour when the allegations against him collapsed in a welter of contradictory and unpunished rumours. However, he did not return to active service and has not been at his desk in Mons.

The all-party parliamentary investigating committee concluded its hearings last Friday after 96 hours of testimony from 32 witnesses. It will question Herr Wörner for a second time on Thursday before issuing a final report.

One member said on Friday that the military intelligence service, known by its initials as MAd, was a shambles, and another said all its 2,000 members should be sacked and the service built up anew with properly qualified personnel.

During testimony, various MAd officers insisted they could not recall the sequence of events or blamed each other for mistakes. But it became clear that rumours about General Kiesling's alleged homosexuality were accepted at face value and incorporated in written reports which were then credited as properly documented evidence.

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THE ARTS

Television

New light on the philosophical animal

It has long been known that whales, dolphins and chimps are nicer than we are. Scientists of the more sensitive sort are now endeavouring to prove that they are no less clever. Looking at the evidence, last night's *Horizon* (BBC 2) suggested that, while their logical games may not be quite as sophisticated as ours, their cunning is perhaps more so.

Washoe the chimp had the psychologists fooled for years, demonstrating on film the ability to combine concepts in the manner of Chinese ideograms: "water bird" for duck, and "rock berry" for brazil nut. Then a scientist called Herbert Terrace called her bluff. He analysed the famous tapes frame by frame to show that the canny beast was simply imitating her teachers in order to attain her alimentary goals. "Baby" (cradling gesture), "In" (quick thrust), "My Cup" (cupping gesture); if that pleased people of course she would mime it, but what kind of an idiot would stick a doll in a mug?

Dr Terrace corroborated his theory with an apesage of his own, the satirically named Nim Chimski, whose failure to remember things like "me give eat give" seemed unremarkable given that charm

alone sufficed to bring home the bacon. A Dr Savage-Rambough of Georgia State University has joyously succumbed to that charm, grunting and chattering with her furry friends: "It is possible that chimps might communicate novel ideas to us."

Coco, who hangs out at the Gorilla Foundation, has trained his teacher to jump through all kinds of stupid hoops. She, incidentally, persists in believing that he wants to narrate the epic of his parents' death and his own capture: he keeps on about a blow from a rock on the back of the neck.

Alex the parrot, studying at Indiana University, can distinguish five shapes and six colours and when menaced by a corn cob is several jumps ahead of his teacher. Teacher: "What colour?" Alex: "I'm going to go away." "What colour?" Alex (sotto voce): "For Chrissakes!" (then warily aloud): "Yellow."

Most moving, of course, were the dolphins. We saw them assisting a newborn babe to the surface for its first breaths of air, and we heard tales of their heroic support for fellow fish in trouble. The haunting sound of the humpback whale has now been found to be "not

much different from birdsong", but one man spoke in hushed tones of the eerie feeling if you chanced to be in the water at the same time "and your lungs resonated with the sound".

I do not know what it all proved, but it is nice to find that the myth of the Golden Age is alive and kicking again in academe. Last night Beryl Bainbridge began her English Journey (BBC 2), following in the steps of J. B. Priestley's journey 50 years ago. Priestley read movingly from his original script: Miss Bainbridge added her gloss, alternately fey and matter of fact, as in her novels.

Meanwhile, Charlie (ITV) represents an attempt by Nigel Williams to bring Raymond Chandler 50 years forward in a dingy world where provincial journalism, blue-collar unionism and the City of London meet. David Warner was Mr. Marlowe-figure, reminding one rather of an unfrocked philosophy don as he got to grips with the mystery, but not even this splendid actor's charisma could prevent the story feeling like all the most boring bits of a serious daily newspaper put together.

Michael Church

Perhaps the most firmly kept viewing appointment of the week at present is on Fridays for the P. D. James serial *Shroud for a Nightingale*. Now in its fourth week, it is increasingly dominated by the redoubtable Detective Chief Superintendent Dalgleish, played with steely authority by Roy Marsden. Since its predecessor, *Death of an Expert Witness*, which won audiences of 11 million last year, Dalgleish has been dubbed "the thinking man's detective" - or, more exactly, the crime fan's thinking detective. With Marsden's embodiment of Dalgleish, the television copper has come of age.

It is as significant a change in its way as the superseding of the rather dour Lord of the Rings by the more sophisticated working-class coppers of *Z-Cars* and their spiritual descendants right down to *The Sweeney*. Dalgleish comes from a different force - certainly a different stratum, one that wears a waistcoat and does not raise its voice.

Roy Marsden, too, underwent a translation of image. He had won notice as a particularly ruthless and dislikable SIS chief in *The Sandbaggers*, followed by the aggressive Yorkshire charter operator he created in *Airline*. Both were "love-or-hate" parts, with a harsh, near-fascist character.

He is a far more subtle and restrained character now, but beneath the incisive manner and icy correctness, he has preserved the hard, dominating core which makes Dalgleish dangerous, well able to brush aside hospital protocol, nursing dragons and blustering consultants. He is a master of the accusing eye, cold and pale blue. Even that shaggy old favourite dog, Mr Chips, whom he recently played for a BBC Sunday daytime classic, came out somewhat grittier than he is often depicted.

"An intensely private, reserved man, who uses his job to preserve his privacy", was how Marsden had to put flesh on a character who remains physically shadowy in the book. "Of course he would be neatly



Peter Lewis meets Roy Marsden (left), currently giving a new image to the television policeman

The mind of a detective

dressed - he would be earning about £18,000 and has no family to spend his money on. I decided he would have been a sportsman but of a solitary kind, like sculling, so I bought him a Leander tie. His moustache was based on the kind of Turkish style that every mounted policeman seemed to be wearing.

"We discussed how he should address people, from the matron to the most junior nurse, and decided he would always be formal. No Christian names. Everyone should keep their distance where he is concerned. And he never stops working. He is a loner, with an empty life apart from his work."

P. D. James has said that she is not primarily interested in setting puzzles - "I only read detective fiction if I can be interested in the characters and the background". Having spent part of her career in Health Service administration, she had no difficulty in creating a very convincing hospital with a staff of intriguing suspects - the ideal closed circle for a detective story.

This makes it all the more important that the human interest of the investigator should match that of the suspects - without going to the un-Jamesian extremes of a Holmes or Wimsey or Poirot.

Dance Canadian carnival

This seems to be the time for leadership changes and identity crises in North American ballet, both sides of the 42nd Parallel. In Toronto, in dance terms at least, the big news is Erik Bruhn. Last year the great Danish classic dancer assumed artistic direction of the 33-year-old company, now the third director in its history. Now, following the work of the immediate predecessor, Alexander Grant, he is attempting to modernize the company, bringing forward the younger dancers, many of them discovered by Grant himself, and a new set of stage supervised by Bruhn himself, continued with a showcase of modern works and modern choreographers, and ended with the company dancing the last act of *Sleeping Beauty*. And all this scarcely a famous guest star, a recent Scarsely? Well, there was Mikhail Baryshnikov, but Baryshnikov was hardly performing a party piece - it was the company's Elaine Kudo - and it seems, he himself was paying off an old debt. It was ten years since Baryshnikov defected in Toronto, receiving the care and solace of the Canadian government, and this was the first time since then that he had danced in this city of his birth.

The opening class was fascinating. It showed Bruhn, in the tradition of his Danish masters (Bournonville and Harald Landt), assuming a pedagogic role, and it also revealed the classroom talent of his young dancers, including such bright newcomers as Jeremy Ransom. Things were not so cheerful in Nureyev's staging of *Sleeping Beauty*.

The middle section - clearly intended as a diplomatic salute to the moderns - was markedly more rewarding. It included a

piece of old-fashioned avant-garde by the Toronto-based odd-choreographer-out Robert Desrosiers called *Hotel Perdu* about a man apparently bitten by a piano. There was also a Rhythmically physical duet, *S'Agapo*, by the company's resident choreographer Constantinos Patsalos, featuring Winnipeg's beautiful prize-winning ballerina Evelyn Hart. And, of course, a black Canadian premier dancer from the Suptent Ballet.

In the general repertoire - seen on another programme - Elaine Kudo showed off a new ballet, an anti-war tract, *Endangered Species*. Heavily influenced by German Expressionism and Kurt Jooss's *The Green Table*, its heart was in the right place but its structure and choreography proved inchoate with more energy than shape, and more conviction than either.

Another major addition to the repertoire, John McFall's *Composures*, had style and again revealed the company's strength, but his work is lacking in any particular individuality. It was set to a Canadian score, *Shaker Loops* by John Adams, and the scenery and costumes by Rouben Ter-Arutunian gave it a look of international sophistication - even chic - but even the effectively smooth dancing of the company, as suave as silk, proved unable to give the work much in the way of bite or personality. It is a very important sense the production of these ballets by the Canadian Grossman and McFall, chiefly associated with the San Francisco Ballet, is of political significance as much as choreographic.

It showed Bruhn's willingness, indeed his anxiety, to come to terms with modern dance trends, and to demonstrate that he was doing something new. In this context it is fascinating to note that in the local press the emergence of Bruhn as the new director has been greeted with precisely the same enthusiasm and in almost precisely the same terms as was the honeymoon period that followed Grant's appointment.

Clive Barnes

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THE ARTS

Galleries

Western fantasies under the spell of Islam

The Orientalists
Royal Academy

Orientalist Paintings of the 19th Century
Mathaf

French Paintings from 1800 to 1850
Hazlitt, Gooden and Fox

Some Danish Paintings of the Nineteenth Century
Bury Street

"Amazing: nothing but blockbusters", I heard someone say of the Royal Academy recently. And indeed it is quite remarkable that *The Genius of Venice* should be not quite down from the walls when another show as ambitious as *The Orientalists* opens. But minds should be cleared of any idea that it is a comparable blockbuster of a show, or it will be found disproportionately disappointing. Some disappointment seems to be in order anyway, partly at least through circumstances, as they say, beyond the organizers' control, for how could they know that last-minute legal complications would hold in thrall no fewer than 18 key works? Serviceable substitutes have been rustled up from various local sources, including galleries which have particularly interested themselves in European artists' reactions to the Near East, such as the Mathaf and the Fine Art Society. But the show still seems curiously lopsided.

One may suspect that it would have seemed so anyway, and will continue to seem so even in the fuller version to be

seen after this London airing (which continues until May 27) at the National Gallery in Washington. (This other version of the show is rather frustratingly described in the joint catalogue, so that you frequently find that some particularly tempting work is visible only in Washington.) The trouble is that the subject probably should have been given blockbuster treatment, or, on this scale, a specific aspect of the subject should have been selected for more detailed examination.

The story of European artists' imaginative involvement with the world of Islam is long and complicated, with many different national subplots and variations in the degree of contact with reality which was thought necessary or appropriate. A show of this size can cover it only very sketchily, and whatever selection it makes is bound to seem arbitrary in relation to all the things that might have been selected and were not.

The scope of the show is defined as "Delacroix to Matisse", though one of catalogue essays gives it, more accurately, as "Bonaparte to T. E. Lawrence". Certainly Napoleon's Egyptian expedition fuelled the imagination of the West, and Lawrence's retirement into the hopeful anonymity of Acre, marked the end of a particularly innocent, romantic view of the Middle East. It is significant that the two western countries invoked are France and Britain, since the show is really dominated by them — particularly France. There are, in fact, quite a few too many rather dull mid-nineteenth-century French academic works by the likes of Guillaumet and Gleyre, the oils in particular creating an unnecessarily gloomy effect through the apparent French unwillingness to clean anything. But what, you might say, of the flourishing German-Austrian school of orientalists,

which achieved the same kind of dazzling last-minute transformation the French school underwent with Matisse's visits to Morocco when Klee and Macke went to Tunis in 1914? Virtually nothing, even before the last-minute reduction. And how about the surprising Italian school of virtuoso watercolourists, who are totally ignored? And indeed, if Matisse is allowed in as the twentieth-century end of the line, surely Klee has an equal right?

Should you wish to find out some more about these other national variations on an oriental, or at least an orientalist, theme, it would be well worth your while to look in at the Mathaf Gallery, 24 Motcomb Street, Belgrave, where the spring exhibition of *Orientalist Paintings of the 19th Century* includes excellent examples of such Germans as Ernst, Deutsch, Kosler, Von Meckel and Haag, as well as Italians like Giulio Rosati and Gustavo Simoni and even Danish and Spanish orientalists (Simonsen and Gallegos y Arrosa, respectively). Similar byways, as well as the highroad to the East, are helpfully documented and extravagantly illustrated in Lynne Thornton's timely volume *The Orientalists: Painter-Travellers 1828-1908* (ACR Edition: £40).

To return to the Academy, and what is in it rather than what is not, it must at once be said that, even if the exhibition does not hold together very well as an exhibition, there is a sufficiency of interesting and extraordinary painting to make a visit well worthwhile. The hero of the occasion seems by general consent to be John Frederick Lewis, who not only had ample real experience of living in Cairo but possessed also a gift of rare refinement for making over his experience into expressive works of art which, even at a considerable distance from the actual observation (he came back to England in 1831, and continued to paint from his



Rare opportunity: Tisson's *The Journey of the Magi*, borrowed from Minneapolis

old sketchbooks for the remaining 25 years of his life), retained the freshness and precision of his work done on the spot. Evidently he had a genuine, unpatronising sympathy with Islam and Islamic ways of life, and his oils *The Hosh* (Courtyard of the House of the Coptic Patriarch, Cairo (in fact his own house)) are as lively as more familiar watercolours like the *Victoria and Albert's The Harem*, a last-minute replacement but nonetheless welcome.

The Gérônes, though depicted, remain the most impressive of the classic French works, while the group of Renoirs (all except one painted before he had visited North Africa himself) remind us of a lesser-known side of his talents, and the Matisse still carry with them a sharp sense of the revelation of light and colour the artist received in Morocco. Visitors to *The Pre-Raphaelites*

at the Tate will no doubt welcome the chance to see the other version of Holman Hunt's *The Afterglow of Egypt* just a short tube-ride away, especially since it is accompanied by a copious selection of Hunt's watercolours from the Holy Land and a fine unfamiliar self-portrait in vaguely oriental attire which comes from the Uffizi, of all places. And chances to see examples of Tisson's religious paintings like *The Journey of the Magi*, or such a striking Brangwyn as *A Trade on the Beach* (retrieved for the moment from the Musée d'Orsay), are rare enough not to be sneezed at.

Oddly enough, there are no orientalist works in the show of French Paintings from 1800 to 1850 at Hazlitt, Gooden and Fox, 38 Bury Street, St James's, until April 19; given the period covered, there might well be, but the nearest we come is a

rather surprising oriental figure in the middle of Jean-Achille Benouville's *Le Colisée vu du Palais* (1844). But for those who can feel content with the *filles bourgeoises* and Biedermeier delights of such paintings as Pierre Duval-Lecamus's *Portrait d'un homme dans un intérieur* or Anthelm-François Lagrenée's *Portrait presé de sa famille* or Comte Alexandre-François-Louis de Girardin's *Portrait d'un inventeur* (it looks as though he invented a fire-engine), there are rewards enough. And the unfamiliar names tell their own tale: as usual with this gallery, the taste is not only immaculate, but gloriously unbacked.

Over the road at the Bury Street Gallery there is another delightfully unfamiliar collection, *Some Danish Paintings of the Nineteenth Century* (until April 19). Perhaps half the show

exemplifies the same sort of Biedermeier taste as the French paintings, with the peculiarly local addition of a group of wonderfully precise, simple, almost but not quite naive flower-pieces for which the only word is Schubertian. Most of the rest come from two late nineteenth-century painters in the immediate circle of that minimalist master Hammershoi: Peter listed was his brother-in-law and Carl Holsoe a close friend. They both paint rather similar subjects: cool, grey-toned interiors or just-exterior views looking into windows instead of looking out, with human figures regarded almost as part of the furniture, when they are present at all. Neither has quite the magic of Hammershoi, but at moments in this show they come very close.

John Russell Taylor

Concert

Endymion Ensemble
Rosslyn Hill Chapel

Harrison Birtwistle has always had the softness of Satie as well as the violence of Varèse. Sunday night's concert by the Endymion Ensemble, part of their admirable Birtwistle series, brought out this gentle side of his character, this ability to write music that seems to be waiting, not without tension, for something to happen. In *Dinah* and *Nick's Love Song*, for three soprano saxophones and harp, the waiting is all, but the new *Duets for Strad* for flutes create out of expectancy a little musical landscape of games, pastorals, elegies and fanfares.

This is Birtwistle working in silverpoint. He takes the medium as an invitation to write scrupulously and economically for two voices which are alternatives, reflections or shadows, pacing one another in a charming gyration. Pulse, as ever in recent Birtwistle, is crucial; and sometimes the effect of the two players coming out of irregular canon into a unison is curiously witty.

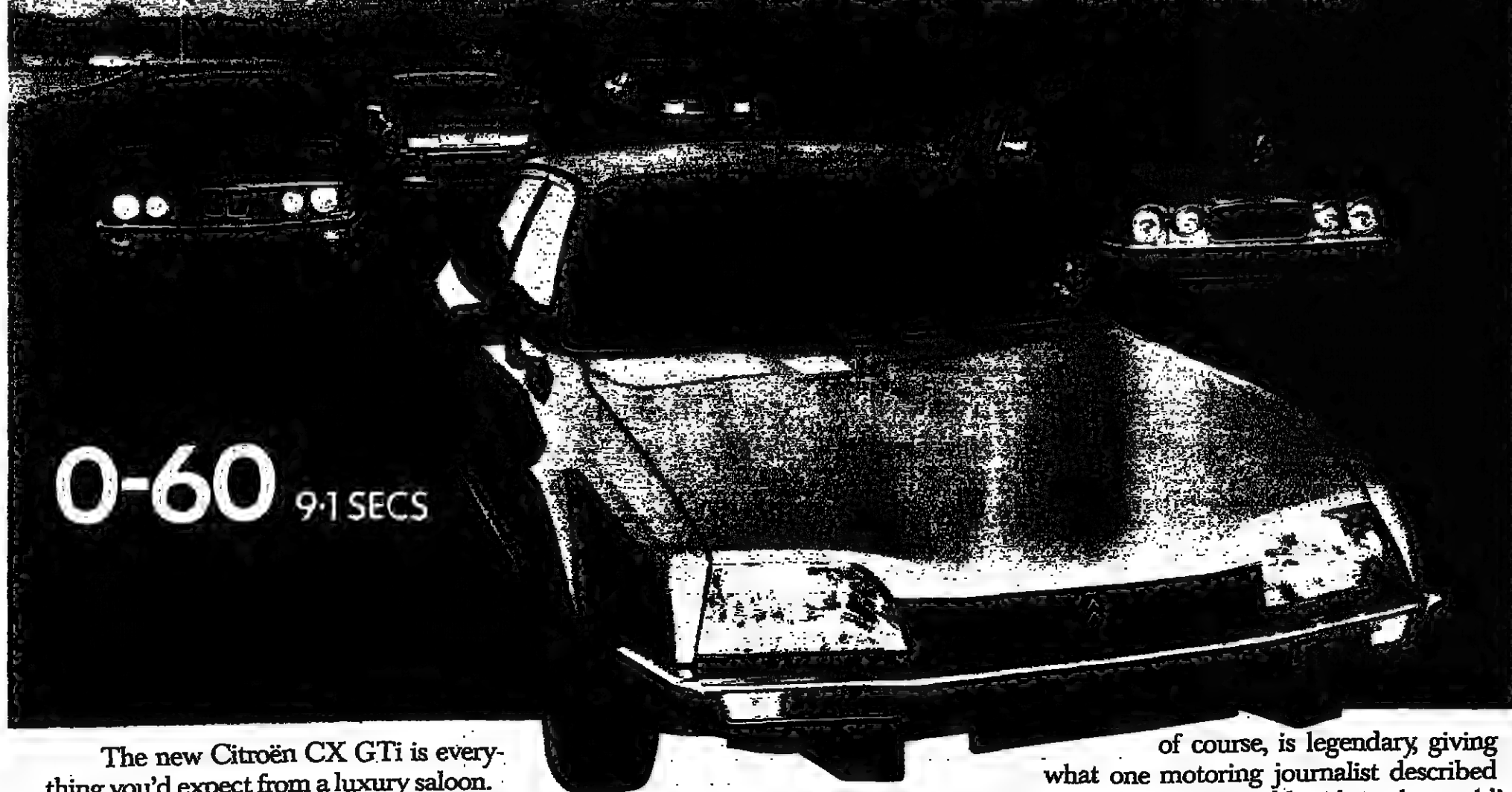
So too, in a different way, is the construction of the six short movements as different views through the same kaleidoscope of ideas, displaying that repeated refocusing and regeneration that has been a feature of Birtwistle's music from the start, as we were reminded by a vividly-drawn performance of *Entractes* and *Sappho Fragments* with Penelope Walmsley-Clark as soloist.

What is new in the duets is the cool, early-morning atmosphere, which apparently was prompted by the composer's residence on the island of Kassay in the Hebrides.

Besides the Birtwistle, there were three pieces by young composers, of which far and away the most impressive was Peter Seabourne's *Jabberwocky*. A mixture of hobbling dances, over-brave concords complete with swooping harp glissandos and other such thorough grotesques, this is hardly a mature conception, but in execution it was remarkably assured for a composer still in his early twenties.

Paul Griffiths

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To improve the handling even more, Citroën have made the GTi's suspension firmer, and fitted a stiffer front anti-roll bar.

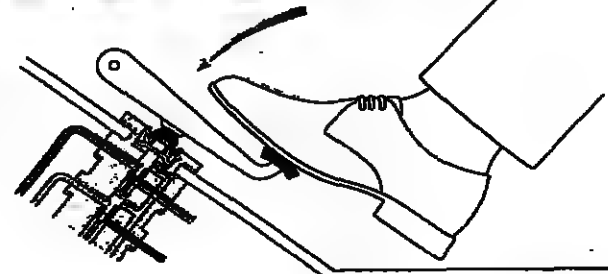
Alloy wheels, low-profile tyres and a rear spoiler are, of course, standard.

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SPECTRUM

Private cures for public ills

Portsmouth health authority is trimming its costs by, among other things, sending NHS patients to private hospitals. Is this the shape of the health service of the future?

Nicholas Timmins reports

Take a health authority in these difficult cost-cutting days for the NHS. Ask it to close 11 of its 16 hospitals over the next 15 years. Tell it to put not just its catering, laundry and cleaning out to private tender, but to consider whether some of its nursing and physiotherapy might not be better provided by the private sector as well.

Then ask it to spend £100,000 next year treating NHS patients in private hospitals. Finally, tell it that to achieve its dreams, it must make savings not of half a per cent here or there, but of at least 10 per cent of its budget over the next decade or so, to provide capital building.

Sit back, and wait for the howls of protest to drown out any possibility of action. Yet that is what Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Health Authority is planning. And it is planning it not because the Department of Health has instructed it to do so, but largely of its own volition.

If all this sounds like a manifesto for Roy Griffiths (the managing director of Sainsbury's brought in by Norman Fowler to shake up NHS management), and equally like a nightmare for those who want to place the NHS on an inviolate pedestal, then that, pretty much, is what it is.

The philosophy behind it is put simply by Dr Martin Hardman, consultant paediatrician at St Mary's, one of the district's two general hospitals. "It is", he says, "a question of self-help."

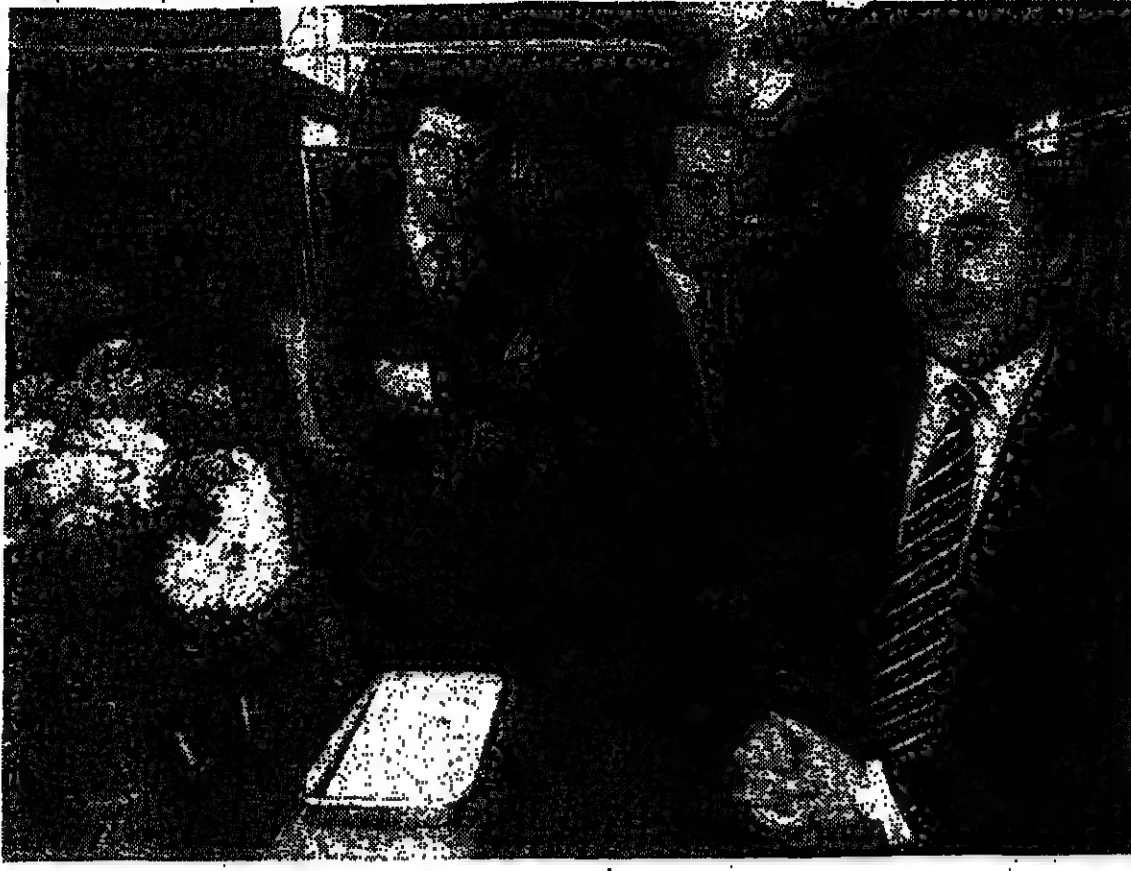
"We are seeing what we can do ourselves to improve our health service, rather than waiting for the region or the DHSS to bail us out."

Portsmouth is in many ways a typical health authority. Geographically it is compact, stretching from Portsmouth to Petersfield, and from Fareham and Gosport to Havant. At £66m its budget is on the large side, but its income per head is about the national norm.

In other ways it is far from typical. Its district administrator, 39-year-old Chris West, is one of the few business graduates in the NHS. His attitudes derive more from the Harvard Business School approach to management than the muddle and make-do image often held by public sector administration.

With Ian Carruthers, his deputy, and Max Millett, the district personnel officer, he runs a triumvirate of managers whose approach to cash limits and cuts is closer to that of the three musketeers than to the people who see nothing but doom and gloom around the corner for the NHS.

If there are problems and opportunities, they see them as something to be seized rather than wringing their hands in horror. The result is a three-pronged attack.



Left: Max Millett, Christopher West and Ian Carruthers, the men behind the Portsmouth efficiency plans. Above: Patient Clifford Hanson with Sister Amanda Porter at Midhurst

The first aim is to cut costs now, where they can be cut. This year £130,000 has been clawed out of the budget by saving wasteful staff advertising, renegotiating bonuses on hotel and portering services, and encouraging consultant geriatricians to reorganize the way they work.

The outcome is four extra consultants in specialties ranging from geriatric medicine to accident and emergency, and more patients treated.

In addition, spare cash is being used to send NHS patients to a private hospital for hip treatment. The issue is controversial, but Chris West says he is "unapologetic" about it.

Many health authorities end up with some spare money at the end of the year, either because they underspend or because they are saving revenues to fund new developments due to open. Rather than spend it on retraining the drive, Portsmouth has spent £25,000 on 10 hip transplants at the King Edward VII private hospital in Midhurst.

£130,000 saved from wasteful services

The hospital has empty beds, and so can offer hips at £1,200 a time instead of the usual £2,000 or more. The hospital sends a bus to pick up the patients. The health authorities insist that consultants from another district do the operations, to avoid charges that it is paying consultants twice, or that doctors are keeping the waiting lists deliberately long to boost their private income.

The experiment will show, Chris West says, whether the waiting lists have built up through simple overload which can be lowered by a once-and-for-all cut, or whether the district needs more permanent resources for such work. Next year he is asking the authority to spend £100,000 on private operations, not just for hips but for other operations with long waiting lists, such as hernias.

"We are using non-recurring revenue," he says.

He says "money that we cannot be certain will continue to be available. There is no point in spending that on extra nurses if we cannot be sure we can employ them next year. Under this arrangement, we get operations cheap and the private sector gets some income. We both benefit."

The second target for the authority, is to put its domestic, catering and laundry services out to private tender, something the Department of Health is demanding that all health authorities do. But it is also reviewing a whole range of other services from administration to nursing, physiotherapy, care for the elderly and surgery.

All will be audited, the demands in them assessed, their manpower and working practices examined, and their real costs worked out. That done, the question will be asked: "Should they be tested against the commercial sector?"

The programme is a long-term one but has, needless to say, horrified many, including the unions. In practice few if any of these services are likely to be privatized wholesale.

But Ian Carruthers argues that this kind of questioning provides a remarkable stimulus to those services asked to examine how well they are being run at the moment - and there might be areas on the edges where the private sector would be cheaper.

Already a review of community services has identified savings of up to £250,000 over three years by basing the service in one headquarters instead of four separate rented sites, and by shedding over 20 clerical posts by natural wastage. Next year Chris West expects the reviews to cut £500,000 from administrative and support services, money that will be transferred to patient care.

The third prong of Chris West's strategy is a wholesale review of the long-term aims of the district. Instead of planning development piecemeal, the authority has asked a much more fundamental question. It has looked at what its revenue is likely to be by the year 2000 and how much capital it is likely to get. It has asked, "given a blank sheet of paper, what

ideally would we provide with those monies?" It has then said, "how do we get from here to there?"

The answer sounds alarming - close 11 of its 16 hospitals over the years, many of which are small, much-loved and in attractive buildings. But they are in sparsely populated areas and are expensive and inefficient to run.

In return the district gets three new community hospitals in more heavily populated Petersfield, Fareham and Havant, and gets funds to develop community services for the old, mentally ill and handicapped, and to improve its acute services.

A key factor in the plans is proposed with Haslar, the Royal Navy hospital in Gosport. This has just had a £12m development and can offer five new operating theatres and six empty wards that the NHS could use. The hospital already treats some NHS patients on a "grace and favour" basis. Chris West's solution is to use that investment of taxpayers' money to the NHS's advantage, by allowing Haslar to

One headquarters will save £250,000

provide support services and NHS doctors to operate in the under-used theatres.

The package contains a promise that no hospital will close until its replacement is open, and that no services will be cut.

The proposals have been out for consultation for three months and Chris West and Ian Carruthers have attended over 100 meetings of staff and public, some 300-strong and overflowing at the doors, to sell the idea. There has been a wealth of criticism and fears, a surge of "save our hospital" campaigns, but also a surprising amount of support.

Some of it has come from a small but influential group of consultants who have seen the harsh realities of health service budgeting through service on the district management team.

Mr Peter Fenton, a consultant ophthalmologist at Queen Alexandra's Hospital, says that faced with intractable waiting lists consultants are developing the confidence to say, "If we can save a bit here, we can spend a bit there."

"What the public doesn't seem to understand about Chris West's proposals is that there is a real opportunity here to improve things. We can close down old hospitals with high overheads, build modern ones in their place and give a better service."

To achieve the rebuilding, the district needs about £62m capital. On current plans it expects about £39m by the year 2000 from the region. Perhaps £17m to £20m will come from selling off the hospitals it plans to close. That leaves a gap of £3m to £6m - up to 10 per cent of its budget.

Chris West says, "Between now and 2000, assuming no growth at all, we will spend about £1 billion in revenue. If we can't save three to six million out of that, then management isn't managing."

Far from everyone in Portsmouth is happy at what is happening. Bob Aberley, regional officer of the health service union COHSE, says the service is already inadequate, and that while savings have to be made, "there is only so much surplus. Sooner or later you will be cutting into bone. Ultimately there is not enough money coming into the NHS and there won't be enough to meet the demands". The Government's privatization drive is souring traditionally good industrial relations in the district. "We are on the edge of a precipice in our relationship with local management."

Even the "three musketeers" have some reservations. Max Millett, the personnel officer, says he would rather avoid privatizing services if possible. Directly employed staff are likely to be more dedicated, and some existing staff after 35 years loyal service may find themselves with a frozen pension, and possibly no job. "I have great sympathy for that."

But given the economic outlook and the pressure on health budgets around the world, he says, "It will not matter much which government is in power. To a greater or lesser degree we would have to be doing the same thing. What we are doing today, everyone is going to have to do sooner or later."

moreover...
Miles Kingston

And now for Torvill and Dean

A handy guide to the best of this week's television viewing.

Tuesday

3.25 (ITV) Afternoon Court Room. Soap Opera. There is a dramatic development in the case in which Mrs. Fortescue is accused of having kidnapped the young child Ramon at birth and brought him up as her own son, so that he can play the violin for them at meal-times. Mrs. Yehudi Menuhin is called as an expert witness, the judge suddenly adjourns the case to let everyone watch Torvill and Dean on television!

5.40 (Channel 4) Today's Recipe: Skate. 8.40 (BBC 2) Chronicle. Did the ancients discover the secret of skating on ice? Professor Tidmarsh, with the help of Torvill and Dean, recreate the way they might have looked, especially if Ramon had already written his Bolero.

9.25 (BBC 1) Play For Today. The Age by Howard Hampton. Sheila is an apparently well-adjusted mother of two, who suddenly decides she has fallen in love with either Torvill or Dean and can't make up her mind which. Husband Barry, driven to distraction, finally hits on an ingenious solution - he murders her.

11.00 (ITV) Late Film. "Come Back to the Five and Dime" Torvill and Dean.

Wednesday

8.00 (ITV) "I'm Torvill - He's Dean". New comedy series.

9.25 (BBC 2) Skaters and Brothers, part 27. Lewis Eliot, now Minister of Nuclear Weapons and Sport under the Tory administration, decides on a far-reaching plan to nurture sports which have not so far received government backing, like polo and bagging. He is persuaded to include one slightly less elitist sport, and on a whim chooses ice skating. His decision is to have far-reaching results.

9.40 (BBC 1) Sportsnight. The latest on Torvill and Dean from Ottawa; also how our cricketers in Pakistan received the news of Torvill and Dean's latest triumph, and a discussion of how rugby could be brightened up in the light of what is happening in Canada.

11.30 (Channel 4) Sarajevo Revisited (rpt).

Thursday

8.00 (BBC 1) The Living Planet. Ice is an apparently hostile environment for any organism. But, as David Attenborough shows, life exists in ice and also on top of ice, where it can reach heights of artistry, precision and beauty undreamt of by previous generations!

9.00 (Channel 4) Soap. Benson comes down one morning to find two people ice skating in the living room. He says "Get outta here!" but it has no effect. Jessica thinks they're kinda cute. Grandpa thinks they're Russian snipers and shoots them dead. What will the British ambassador say when he comes to collect the corpses? (rpt).

11.40 (BBC 1) Torvill and Dean's Laugh-In (rpt).

Friday

8.00 (BBC 1) Super Sports. New series in which Billy Connolly, Russell Harty, Melvyn Bragg, Ludovic Kennedy and A. J. P. Taylor all try their hand at ice skating. Torvill and Dean show them how.

11.00 (Channel 4) A programme without Torvill and Dean in it. Foreign, probably.

EL SALVADOR ELECTION RESULTS

We already know who will lose... it will be the frightened children whose parents have been taken away, the mothers whose sons have been murdered, the fathers whose homes have been burned and their food and crops destroyed.

We don't know who will win the election, but if it means the civil war continues as it has done for the past four years now we know who will lose.

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FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: FOOD SCIENCE



Senior technician Rosia Calokatsia with the calorimeter

The calorie reducer

Researchers at Queen Elizabeth College in London have established that fibre may benefit slimmers by reducing the effective calorie content of other foods.

Calorie watchers get their information from standard tables which are based on the idea that all the metabolizable energy of a food is used by the body. Such energy is defined as the gross value of the food, minus the faecal and urinary energies. The gross energy is determined by burning the food in a special apparatus called a bomb calorimeter and measuring the amount of heat produced. For carbohydrates and fats, it has been assumed that metabolizable and gross energy are roughly equivalent. Proteins

break down into nitrogen compounds which still have a significant calorific value which leaves the body in urine. To test the effects of fibre, Derek Miller and Patricia Judd from QEC studied the energy inputs and outputs of 20 people, all of whom normally eat a diet containing at least 20 per cent cereals. The results they obtained suggest that some calorie values for fibre-containing foods may be overestimated by as much as 20 per cent. For a 100 gram portion of All Bran, for example, they give a calorific value of 172, rather than the 206 worked out by earlier methods and a portion of frozen beans would provide 34 calories, not 41.

naturally occurring milk sugar, lactose. The answer may be to eat yogurt. Experiments done recently in the US suggest that lactose in yogurt is digested much better than lactose in fresh milk. This is because yogurt is a fermented food and the organisms which produce it are equipped with a lactose-digesting enzyme.

Yogurt is made from milk concentrate in which the lactose concentration is about twice that in fresh milk. By the time the micro-organisms have converted the concentrate to yogurt, the lactose concentration has fallen by 50 per cent. It falls no further because the mixture has become too acid for the enzyme to continue working. After consumption, the enzyme passes through the stomach into the duodenum without damage. Here there is no acidity and it can begin working again, breaking down lactose harmlessly, before it can reach the intestinal organisms which make trouble with it.

Pepper check

Pepper is possibly the most widely used spice. It may account for as much as a quarter of the world's total spice market. Consequently, there is a temptation for producers to adulterate pepper with cheaper vegetable material. A favourite adulterant is papaya seed.

If a substantial amount of papaya seed has been added to pepper, it can be detected by such methods as microscopic examination. Smaller amounts have been less easy to identify. Researchers at the Food Research Institute in Norwich have now developed a test that can detect papaya adulteration of black pepper unambiguously, by tracing the benzyl glucosinolate in papaya.



The papaya tree

Sweeter future

Vegetable oils can be obtained both by pressing and by extraction. The meal left behind is often nutritious, but not of much commercial value. One reason for this is that traces of oil left in the meal go rancid, causing off flavours. A relatively new extraction technique may overcome this problem.

Under what are called "supercritical" conditions, carbon dioxide gas behaves like a liquid solvent. Scientists at the United States Department of Agriculture research centre in Peoria, Illinois, have recently investigated extraction of corn with supercritical carbon dioxide. Corn oil obtained was better than that obtained by milling.

Martin Sherwood

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مكتبة من الأمل

FASHION by Suzy Menkes

The emperors'



PARIS FASHION

One week into the Paris collections and 41 shows later, the dramatic climax is yet to come. This morning, the extrovert, irreverent and maverick designer Karl Lagerfeld unveils his first own-label collection - an event awaited with as much relish as the first asparagus of spring.

Tomorrow, the reclusive, sensitive, intellectual Yves Saint Laurent, French fashion's uncrowned king, will bring the collections to a close with a show designed to up-stage the pretender to his throne.

This duel of egos is much more than rivalry between two designers and their fanatical followers. Behind it lies a challenge to the French concept of high fashion.

Saint Laurent's success is rooted in haute couture, in the imperial red and gilded salon where he was still working intensely yesterday on his ready-to-wear collection. Lagerfeld, who came to Paris from his

native Germany at the age of 14, is the founder of pret-a-porter de luxe. His witty, elegant collections for the house of Chloé (which he left on January 1) gave gloss and glamour to off-the-peg fashion which seemed - especially in the sixties - a more contemporary kind of chic than haute couture.

Both designers have lifted the toile covers to their collections to show me a hint of what is to come. Karl calls his overlapping petals of wool crepe that unfurl in movement his "mille feuille" look. The word that comes out most often in his staccato voice is "impeccable". It describes the intricate cutting of wide side-pleated trousers, clean-cut draped wool jersey dresses and even the silk culottes boldly printed with the fan that is Karl Lagerfeld's trade mark.

Yves says that his new collection is "clean and pure", with lots of pants, cut wide and short at the ankle, and also with wool jersey for long tunics and for slim dresses, with hemlines just over the knee. His print is a dazle of amethyst, ruby and emerald jewels on pleated silk, exactly matched to a jacquard weave sweater. His favourites are the tweed jackets, inspired by English gentlemen, cut with the precision that makes him (as the Grande Mademoiselle herself once said) Chanel's logical successor.

But it is Karl Lagerfeld who is now in charge of Chanel as well as his own collection. He fired the first bullet in his duel with Saint Laurent yesterday morning, when he produced a lively Chanel collection which loosened up the famous suit silhouette by padding the shoulders, dropping the hemlines and introducing a pretty slim skirt that wrapped at the back.

Best were simple long-long dresses in navy blue and Chanel tweed lining to a mac.

Among a welter of other ideas, often piled on indiscriminately, were velvet collars and trims, Chanel details in curly Mongolian lamb and tartan throws. Chanel would not have been amused by the shocking, Schiaparelli pink of her implacable enemy, or by the leopard-patterned boots. Evening dressing gown coats in a jewel print were stylish. The trompe l'oeil embroidered Chanel bag on a black jersey dress was a joke left over from Lagerfeld's days at Chloé.

Meanwhile, at Chloé, the new designer, Guy Paulin, had all the right ideas but used them wrongly. He wants, he told me in his gentle voice, to bring femininity to sportswear, to produce tender colours and gentle fabrics to counter the aggressive trend of tough leather and hard-edged man-tailoring. Best were his dandy three-quarter coats in pale tweed, bouclé (an important winter fabric) worn with fondant, coloured jersey in peach, primrose and mint green. There were jersey coats lined and bordered in fur, shapely redingotes and very long flat pleated skirts. Very much on the debit side were fitted crepe dresses in a sombre forties print and a transparent,

beaded tunic, complete with satin bra, that was in embarrassing contrast to Chloé's traditional luxury and refinement.

Claude Montana's coats were superb - big, bold trenches, cut with a kimono-sleeve seam and worn with very wide pleated pants that are an important Paris trend. His other coat was three-quarter length, cut from his usual baseball shoulder line. It looked stunning in splashes of colour: turquoise, orange, violet, canary yellow, emerald and shocking pink. Narrow ski pants - the alternative trouser shape - went under bold black and white sweaters.

Montana's sense of theatre never overwhelms his clothes. Thierry Mugler - or Megalo-Mugler, as the French press dubbed him - hired a rock stadium with 6,000 seats (he sold all but 14), and had a madonna descending from a celestial blue ceiling to climax his collection.

Before the arrival of the Archangel Gabriel with a sexy swathed jersey dress and black wings behind a shower of pink confetti the size of Communion wafers, and under the crystal rosaries which are apparently the new fashion accessory, Mugler showed some good sportswear. There were big ribbed-knit jackets, bold two-pieces in jersey (the star fabric of the season). Colours were orange, lemon or sky-blue with white, or shades of brown from hot chocolate to ginger.

Sonia Rykiel was in her element this season when the jersey fabrics she handles so impeccably are in all the collections. Her young, fresh show was a fashion guide for next season. There were the two new trouser shapes - the wider, shorter leg and the narrow ski pants. Both shown with either skinny long tunics or cropped sweaters. Her new skirt is mid-calf, flat-pleated from the hip. Her new colours are lipstick red and violet, although she had none of the brown much favoured elsewhere. Her coats are either kimono-shaped or tailored in tweed, mostly three-quarter while she played with the proportions of skirt and pants. Cerruti also played the proportions game with a swingy short trench over narrow pants and man-tailored three-quarter jackets with wide ones.

Anne-Marie Beretta made the best coats in Paris in a strong season. Her personal vision of woman as Amazon was cut down to manageable size in kimono-sleeved coats, criss-crossed in red leather or in a shapely navy trench with a cape effect on the bodice.

The dandy is the new feel for tailoring, with velvet collared redingotes at de Luca and some swashbuckling mixtures of red and green plaid with green Donegal tweed.

Jean-Paul Gaultier, who is at the crest of the French new wave, also had Dandy jackets, worn in a louche way with very long gin alley skirts looped across the hips. Gaultier, who is attuned to young London, also had some splendid pointilliste knits, some bolder flowers and English hat designer Stephen



Jones coming on as a star in his show.

The Japanese star is on the wane in Paris. Rei Kawakubo of Comme des Garçons, who was a catalyst for changing fashion a year ago, is now working closer to the body with a wrap silk dress tying like an apron and with skirts swathing the hips. She has also discovered colour, especially a Hare Krishna orange that lit up her sombre palette. Junko Koshino had colour, print and a French cut to her lines. Yohji Yamamoto had strong knits, powerfully presented.

Japanese masks moulded to the contours of his (Japanese) models' faces made a dramatic statement from Issey Miyake,

whose fabric studio is now producing the most intriguing and original textures I have ever seen. Issey's shapes were controlled, with a knitted tunic opening up into a wing of fabric at one sleeve, the most insistent shape. His pleated jersey jackets lapping the body asymmetrically and his tactile wool and silk straw mat jacket, complete with raffia fringes, had just the right sense of theatre.

Elsewhere in Paris, where more than 60 designers are displaying their wares, there was a feeling that the show's the thing that matters more than the clothes. This season's collections, held around the little lake in the Tuileries gardens in alternate spring

sunshine and showers, has attracted a camp following whose appetite for the bizarre, the overblown and the plain daff was fed from the runway.

An over-produced show of indifferent fashions, cheered to the echo by a gaggle of groupies, made many of these Paris collections seem like the Emperor's new clothes.

And who will be the real Emperor of Paris fashion, we have yet to see.

Photographs by Harry Kerr

Make-up by Gloria for Bourjois of Paris
Hair by Siegfried for Alexandre de Paris

new clothes



KARL LAGERFELD (left): cream crepe "mille feuille" coat with panels of fabric that open out in movement. Short, wide trousers are cropped short of the ankle; navy shoes with red heel. YVES SAINT LAURENT (far left): bold dogtooth checked tweed dandy jacket with velvet collar, in black and white with scarlet accessories. YVES SAINT LAURENT (centre left): gemstone print silk pleated mid-calf length skirt with an exactly matching silk jacquard evening tunic in amethyst, ruby, emerald green and sapphire blue.

CLAUDE MONTANA (top right): The dressing gown evening coat, shown in green and claret, over foulard printed pyjamas. GUY PAULIN for CHLOÉ (right): Windownpane check big trenchcoat with the new wide cut Paris trouser, worn with a fondant coloured sweater. Man-tailoring is big for next season. Coats come in tweed, jersey, sheepskin and bouclé wool with some curly Mongolian lamb often used as linings and trims. Underneath go suits with three-quarter length jackets, long pleated skirts and wide pants, or slim jersey dresses. Velvet, foulard printed silk and satin come out at night.



Angela Gore



Fine Italian Corduroy

For classical shirt jacket in warm beige - Length 28" - 76% cotton, 24% polyester. Matching skirt with elasticated waist - side seam pockets - self belt. Length 29" with two thick hem and fully lined polyester taffeta. Cotton lawn shirt and crease - small coral poppies on natural. From stock or up to 28 days. Made in our Kentish workrooms and returned if unsuitable. 12/36, 40/42, 44/46, 48/50, 52/54, 56/58, 60/62, 64/66, 68/70, 72/74, 76/78, 80/82, 84/86, 88/90, 92/94, 96/98, 100/102, 104/106, 108/110, 112/114, 116/118, 120/122, 124/126, 128/130, 132/134, 136/138, 140/142, 144/146, 148/150, 152/154, 156/158, 160/162, 164/166, 168/170, 172/174, 176/178, 180/182, 184/186, 188/190, 192/194, 196/198, 200/202, 204/206, 208/210, 212/214, 216/218, 220/222, 224/226, 228/230, 232/234, 236/238, 240/242, 244/246, 248/250, 252/254, 256/258, 260/262, 264/266, 268/270, 272/274, 276/278, 280/282, 284/286, 288/290, 292/294, 296/298, 300/302, 304/306, 308/310, 312/314, 316/318, 320/322, 324/326, 328/330, 332/334, 336/338, 340/342, 344/346, 348/350, 352/354, 356/358, 360/362, 364/366, 368/370, 372/374, 376/378, 380/382, 384/386, 388/390, 392/394, 396/398, 400/402, 404/406, 408/410, 412/414, 416/418, 420/422, 424/426, 428/430, 432/434, 436/438, 440/442, 444/446, 448/450, 452/454, 456/458, 460/462, 464/466, 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MORE THAN A LOCAL VOTE

For local elections to be considered an important indicator of a government's mid-term popularity, or lack of it, is not unusual. For them to be regarded as a crucial test of its legitimacy, as was the case with those held in Turkey on Sunday, is less common. The circumstances were, to say the least, unusual.

There was a general election in Turkey less than five months ago. Its results had been rejected in advance, by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, as undemocratic and unrepresentative. That view was not unreasonable, in view of the restrictions on freedom of speech and association imposed by the military regime, and especially of the arbitrary disqualification of so many would-be parties and candidates. But it was, perhaps, a little premature.

In the event the election on November 6 did provide the Turkish people with a genuine, if limited, choice. The Turks proved this by voting for the party, of the three available, which was clearly least favoured by the military regime. But it remained uncertain just how representative the new Parliament was, since there was no way of knowing how people would have voted if other parties, which had been thought likely to win wider support, had been allowed to compete.

To its credit, the parliament itself arranged for a fairer test of opinion by ordering that local elections be held last weekend and that parties not represented in parliament be allowed to contest them. And, in the event, the courage of the parliamentary majority has been rewarded. The same party that won the general elections - the Motherland Party led by the prime minister, Mr Turgut Ozal - has also won the local elections, with almost the same percentage of the popular vote. The conservative "Right Way" party, transparently the

successor of the old Justice Party and by its own reckoning the rightful proprietor of most of Mr Ozal's support, has come in a poor third with less than 15 per cent of the votes, according to yesterday's incomplete returns. This is an event of potentially historic significance: it means that Turkish conservatism, represented for thirty years by the late Adnan Menderes and then by his successor, Mr Süleyman Demirel, has now at least provisionally accepted Mr Ozal as its leader, recognizing itself in his blend of neo-liberal economics and neo-Islamic social values.

The claim that Mr Ozal and his party are not the elected leaders of Turkey no longer carries conviction. Any remaining challenge to the legitimacy of the Turkish parliament must now centre on the opposition, not the majority. There indeed is an anomaly: the two parties forming parliamentary opposition, with nearly half the seats between them, represent less than 15 per cent of the voters on the basis of the local election results, while the main opposition parties in the country - the social-democratic "Sodep" with 22 per cent and "Right Way" with 14 - are not represented in parliament at all. The leader of Sodep, Professor Erdal İnönü, clearly has some justification for considering himself the true leader of the opposition, while the present leader of the parliamentary opposition, Mr Necdet Calp of the Populist Party, has clearly not succeeded in making himself the leader of the moderate left as Mr Ozal has of the moderate right.

Mr Calp is pledged to resign in these circumstances, and his party is probably willing to merge with Sodep. It may not be allowed to do so formally but its members could hardly be prevented from accepting the de facto leadership of Professor

İnönü if that is what they decide to do. In any case it would now be rather pedantic, and would not serve any useful purpose, for the Council of Europe to insist on questioning the credentials of the Turkish parliamentary delegation.

The legitimate concern of the Council of Europe will be to see Turkish democracy improved and consolidated, through the extension of civil liberties and human rights. That concern is shared, it appears, by the Turkish parliamentarians. Those who went to Strasbourg for the last session of the Parliamentary Assembly in January said they were anxious to make sure not only that the Assembly was fully apprised of Turkey's problems but also that the Turkish parliament was told clearly and directly what the Council of Europe expected of it. In other words they were looking for moral support and even advice from their European colleagues, provided that the advice was based on accurate information about, and understanding of, what is actually happening in Turkey.

The Assembly, when it meets again in May, should respond to this invitation. Rather than turn the Turkish parliamentarians away it should welcome them, while making constructive suggestions about measures the Turkish government could undertake. Those most obviously needed are an amnesty for political prisoners not convicted of crimes of violence, and action to secure the human rights of those who remain in prison. Amendments to the press law will also be needed if Turks are to enjoy full freedom of expression, but they may take longer to achieve. It is probable that Mr Ozal will want to move in this direction anyway. The greater legitimacy his government now enjoys should make it easier for him to do so.

WORK FOR THE COURTS

In his struggle for the victory of reason in the management of the coal industry, Mr Ian Macgregor's most valuable allies (after public opinion) are the miners who want to work and who recognize that an economically productive and well-paid industry is in their own best interests. It was because the National Coal Board did not wish to alienate the miners who were seeking to work, but who are also good trade unionists, that it decided last week that it "would not be constructive" (as the NCB's lawyers put it in court) to proceed with the action for contempt of court against the Yorkshire miners' union for defying the court order to desist from secondary picketing.

If the protection of the court were to be sought in this way, and if the unions continued to defy the court, the final sanction, under the 1982 Employment Act would be seizure of union funds. That might well create the solidarity of miners against the NCB which Mr Arthur Scargill has sought but has conspicuously failed to find. Mr Macgregor's preferred tactics of letting the moderates themselves resist Mr Scargill's attempts at coercion would thus be frustrated.

Since the NCB's decision to hold its hand in court, however, the resistance of the moderates has been steadily eroded by the intimidation of secondary picketing by miners from outside the areas where the local men wish to work. Yesterday, the Midlands area, vainly calling for the national strike ballot which

Mr Scargill refuses, capitulated to the pressure and decided to come out on strike - pointedly asking the flying pickets to leave the area. Men who wish to work no longer feel able, even with police protection, to resist those who say they shall not work. Thus is the law flouted. Only the Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire coalfields, under siege from the flying pickets and relying on massive police protection, will now be operative. Gradually the coalfields are being brought to a standstill by intimidation in defiance of the law because Mr Scargill prefers this method to that of a democratic strike ballot that he fears would go against him.

In these changed circumstances, Mr Macgregor should reconsider resuming his contempt of court action against the Yorkshire miners for their defiance of the injunction against secondary picketing. Logic would also suggest that he should seek similar injunctions against other areas which have used this kind of picketing.

When the NCB decided to adjourn its motion for contempt of court, it made clear that the action had not been abandoned but was merely held in abeyance. Characteristically, Mr Scargill interpreted this as a climb-down, and Mr Macgregor would now be wise to ensure that his own wish for moderation is not interpreted as a sign of weakness.

The Coal Board evidently regards the defied injunction against unlawful picketing, and

the suspended contempt action against the Yorkshire NUM for disregarding it, as having had some success in that a great deal of the violence has gone out of the picketing of the Nottinghamshire coalfields. The men there can now get to work. For the moment, the adjourned contempt action is apparently seen by the NCB as a suspended weapon to be brought into play again only if violent picketing is resumed. But what is to be done if, as a result of unlawful secondary picketing, the entire coal industry were to shut down?

It is a healthy instinct not to rush to the courts so long as there is hope that respect for the law makes court protection unnecessary. We do not most of the time, behave lawfully only because a policeman is at hand to see that we do not behave unlawfully. But the wish to see the law heeded without court action is no reason for refusing to appeal to the courts once it is clear that the law is being disregarded. A law that cannot be enforced, or which those who need its protection hesitate to test, is not a good law. If Mr Scargill is allowed to close the nation's coalfields by intimidation, he will feel free to move his pickets elsewhere, to impede the movement of coal and the work of the power stations. That is why Mr Macgregor, the risks not withstanding, should not hesitate long before going back to the court. If necessary, the law has to be tested to prove that it is good.

FAR EASTERN FRIENDS

Mr Nakasone's visit to China puts the seal on relations which have grown increasingly warm since the Sino-Japanese friendship treaty of 1978. There is a natural complementarity in the relationship. China is the most populous power in the area, Japan the most advanced. China sees Japan as a major source of credits and advanced industrial goods and an ally in its drive for modernization. Japan sees China as a major source of oil and coal and a growing market for Japanese goods. Japanese credits quickly followed the 1978 treaty, and Mr Nakasone is now offering 470,000m yen (£1,436m) in long-term aid. Already Japan is China's biggest trading partner and is helping with the exploitation of China's energy resources.

Politically there are no serious problems between the two former enemies. They see more or less eye to eye on the Soviet Union, which reacted furiously to the 1978 treaty denouncing it as "hostile to the Soviet Union and fraught with danger". The Russians are naturally worried by anyone helping China but they were particularly annoyed

by a clause saying that the two signatories would oppose "efforts by any other country or group" to establish hegemony in the Asian-Pacific region. While denying that this could possibly be relevant to Soviet intentions, the Russians insisted that it was directed against them, and they were further annoyed when China declared that it would abrogate the ancient treaty of alliance with the Soviet Union which declared Japan to be the common enemy.

China is not in fact forming an alliance with Japan against the Soviet Union. Its interest in Japan is mainly economic but it is also pursuing its own version of regional balance, seeing Japan as a potentially helpful counterweight to Soviet influence in Vietnam and on the sea. At the same time it is not wholly at ease with the modest but significant growth in Japan's defence effort, which has become more open and more rapid under Mr Nakasone, and more overtly pro-American. The Japanese leader, acknowledging bitter memories of the war, has felt obliged to reassure his hosts that Japan will never again allow a resurgence of

militarism, while also hunting at worries about the future growth of China's power.

This caution also extends to the economic front. The Japanese are worried by the political uncertainty which still surrounds China's drive towards modernization. Japanese confidence was shaken - along with that of other foreign contractors - when China suddenly cut back on many large investment projects a few years ago. Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese leader, has been trying to reassure Mr Nakasone, insisting that all Japanese firms were compensated, but it is only natural for the Japanese to limit their exposure while there is still significant opposition to modernization and Western influence in China.

The whole relationship is therefore still somewhat tentative, hedged by memories and worries on both sides, but as far as it goes at the moment it brings benefits to both and contributes to stability in the region. If it continues to go well it could ease the path of United States relations with China, from which not all stumbling blocks will be removed by Mr Reagan's forthcoming visit.

Fairer way with EEC revenues

From Sir Fred Catherwood, MEP for Cheshire and Wirral, Borough (European Democrat (Conservative))

Sir, Those of us who have spent the last six months in persuading our parliamentary colleagues to unblock the British refund of £475m are as entitled as anyone to find the "European Council" renouncing their Stuttgart agreement both on the refund and on the establishment of a permanent mechanism to avoid our wasting the whole of our negotiating strength on each year's refund.

You are absolutely right, however, that what matters is not last year's rebate, but a long-term settlement not just for a fairer mechanism of raising revenue, but, a far bigger issue, the quid pro quo of a limit on agricultural spending in return for an increase in Community revenues.

The £475m is, as we told our parliamentary colleagues, a totally inadequate lever to persuade the British Government to raise new revenue unconditionally. By the same token, it is a totally inadequate lever to help us to achieve reform.

The only bargaining counters worth their weight are the permanent reform of the fund-raising mechanism and the limit on runaway agricultural spending on one hand, and the desperately needed increase in Community revenue on the other. Anything else confuses the issue.

Yours,
FRED CATHERWOOD,
Shire Hall,
Castle Hill,
Cambridge,
March 26.

Common aim

From Mr R. M. S. Barrett

Sir, May I commend the interesting column by Mr Ian Murray in *The Times* (March 20) on the problems of the European Community?

It seems to me that a common philosophy and objective beyond national interests comes before figures, important as they are.

I doubt if MM Schuman, de Gasperi, Monnet and Dr Adenauer would have gained the unity they achieved after the war if their aim had been anything less than a common heart and mind for the rebuilding of a shattered Europe.

Yours sincerely,
R. M. S. BARRETT,
Haddington,
East Lothian,
March 21.

A place in space

From Mr Julian G. Page

Sir, Your leader article ("Buying space..." March 6) is correct in its assertion that the loss of two communications satellites would have been more disconcerting without the knowledge that alternative methods of launching were available and I wish to defend it against the correspondent who criticized it in today's *Letters* (March 16).

He is correct in saying that no fault lay with the shuttle orbiter itself, but he is incorrect in the presumption that an Ariane launch would also have failed.

The space shuttle is most cost-effective when launched into a low Earth orbit, and because of this payload intended for a geostationary orbit need an extra boost to enable them to achieve this. Thus they are fitted with an upper stage which is attached to the base of the satellite. It was in these upper stages that the fault lay and not in the satellites themselves.

However, Ariane is built to insert payloads into a geostationary transfer orbit directly with a continuous burn of the third stage, an upper stage not being needed.

Nasa (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) uses two types of upper stage, the inertial upper stage (IUS) and the solid spinning upper stage (SSUS) which is alternatively known as a payload assist module (PAM). So far both types have failed although the latest failure (in the SSUS) appears to be a manufacturing fault rather than one of design.

The IUS fault is a design fault and a fix has yet to be implemented. Given that all US payloads will be launched by shuttle in future it is useful to have an alternative launch vehicle in case of serious problems and ensuing delays.

Having said this I would like to point out that the large satellite market ensures enough activity for both types of launch vehicle and any serious failures would create problems with launch schedules of both shuttle and Ariane.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN G. PAGE,
The Hawthorns,
University of Keele,
Staffordshire,
March 16.

Uncomfortably off

From Mr Michael FitzGibbon

Sir, It is comforting to read (leader, March 15) that Sir Frank Cooper, "leaving Whitehall laden with a knighthood and an inflation-proofed pension and sliding into a well-paid job in the City". I have just retired and when I slide (without knighthood) into a moderately paid second career, I shall lose my Government pension altogether.

Both pensions come from the same ultimate source, the only difference being that I have visibly paid for mine over the last 46 years. Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL FITZGIBBON,
65 Middle Lane,
Epsom,
Surrey,
March 15.

Crime and punishment in Tisdall case

From Mr Des Wilson

Sir, It was made clear when *The Guardian* was instructed to release the documents, and at Miss Sarah Tisdall's trial for their disclosure, that national security was not endangered. That is why section 1 of the Official Secrets Act was not employed. The issue is, therefore, how do we deal with leaks that do not threaten national security?

Since the Franks committee in 1972 condemned section 2 of the Act as "a mess" few politicians or civil servants of any rank have attempted to defend its sweeping powers. Franks said "its scope is enormously wide - any law which impinges on the freedom of information in a democracy should be much more tightly drawn".

The present Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, said in 1978 that the Act was "simply indefensible". A 1979 Green Paper said the Government recognises that the catch-all effect of section 2 is "no longer right". Even the Attorney General on Sunday described it as "an odd Act" - a masterly understatement.

You seem to miss the point (leading article, March 26) that one reason for the widespread condemnation of the prison sentence of Miss Tisdall is that it was imposed under a discretionary law, the repeal of which was recommended by an official committee with the specific brief of examining it in 1972. (It is a shame that the Prime Minister's respect for Lord Franks's views of the Falkland Islands affair does not extend to respect for his views on section 2.)

Second, the recent spate of leaks demonstrates that section 2 is ineffective as a measure of control. The fact is that secrecy has become so indiscriminate that the genuine need for secrecy in some areas is no longer respected.

The Act has given secrecy a bad name. Even the First Division Association of Civil Servants recently stated, "to some extent leaks have been promoted by a belief that Government in the UK is excessively secretive by comparison with other democracies. This belief has some justification."

Yours,
DES WILSON, Chairman,
The 1984 Campaign for Freedom of Information,
2 Northdown Street, NI,
March 26.

From Mrs Brigit Smithers

Sir, A young woman has today been sentenced to six months' imprisonment for breaking the terms of her

Obscenity and police

From Mr Raymond Blackburn

Sir, The Video Recordings Bill, at present before Parliament, appears to be based on the recommendations of the Williams Committee on Obscenity and Film Censorship, published in 1979. One of the earliest and most important of these recommendations was based on a false finding of fact.

The Williams report recommended that there be no law to restrict or prohibit the written word (paragraph 6 of summary of proposals). Paragraph 4.2 states, "The view was expressed to us by representatives of the Metropolitan Police that the failure of that prosecution (*Inside Linda Lovelace*) meant that the law was unlikely to be invoked again against the written word".

On March 5, 1980, I raised this before the Court of Appeal in *Blackburn v Commissioner of Police*. Mr Donald Farquharson, QC (now

employment and leaking secret information to *The Guardian* newspaper. The editor who decided to publish this information to the world, knowing it to be classified, is not only unpunished but has benefited from her crime through the ensuing publicity.

He is a man of wide experience and responsibility. Is he not morally, at least as guilty as she is judged to be?

Yours faithfully,
BRIGIT SMITHERS,
5 Combe Park,
Bath, Avon,
March 23.

From Mr John Cottis

Sir, May I congratulate you upon demonstrating the enormity of the six months' prison sentence upon Patricia Tisdall by contrasting it with previous sentences under section 2 of the Official Secrets Act. She passed to the press papers which did little more than embarrass the Government.

Did you deliberately put your front page report (March 24) next to that about the failings in quality control at the Nottingham Royal Ordnance factory? Here failings affected the safety of 275 guns, some sold abroad, and the cost of replacement is put at about £1m. For this it seems, the penalty is one recommendation for dismissal. I think you may have been conscious of the question this asks about our sense of values.

Yours truly,
JOHN COTTIS,
Barnard's Farm House,
Charlton,
Wantage,
Oxfordshire.

From Mr Tom Bowring

Sir, Some very strong feelings have been expressed about the sentence on Sarah Tisdall. We have not yet heard about the feelings of Miss Tisdall's colleagues who were under suspicion for over two months, some of the suspicion created, it would appear, by Miss Tisdall herself.

According to the evidence, when Miss Tisdall was pressed by Detective Chief Superintendent Hardy that the evidence pointed to her being the one responsible, Miss Tisdall persisted in her denial, and said that any one of her colleagues could have done it.

Yours faithfully,
TOM BOWRING,
46 Hyde Vale,
Greenwich, SE10,
March 26.

Mr Justice Farquharson appeared for the Commissioner and immediately stated that there was no such view as had been attributed to the police. On the contrary, there were no fewer than 24,000 such items of the written word only which were currently the subject of prosecution by them. When specifically asked, he could not explain how the committee had been misled.

The views of the committee have, no doubt, a continuing influence - for example on some of those considering the video Bill. For the Opposition, Lord Donaldson stressed the importance of these matters in the debate on the report.

Neither the chairman nor any member of the committee has to my knowledge made any retractions. Surely the record should be put straight.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND BLACKBURN,
30 Homefield Road,
Chiswick, W4,
March 19.

Cancer among nuns

From Dr John Anderson

Sir, Your Science Correspondent quotes (March 16) Dr Robert Yule, of Christie's Hospital, Manchester, as saying that "cancer of the cervix is unknown among nuns because they have no sexual activity".

This is incorrect. The research in this field was carried out by two doctors, Fabien Gagnon, from Quebec, in 1950 and Janet Towne, from Chicago, in an independent study in 1955; their results were published in the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*. Both reported, not a complete absence, but a remarkably low incidence of

cervical cancer among nuns.

Promiscuity is only one of several risk factors identified with cervical cancer. Publishing inaccurate information about the disease which is so easily quotable as "an interesting fact" may encourage the public to label all cervical carcinoma patients as promiscuous.

This could cause considerable distress to non-promiscuous women, including nuns, who are unfortunate enough to suffer from cancer of the cervix.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ANDERSON,
Hammermill Hospital,
Du Cane Road, W12,
March 20.

Venice preserved

From Mr John Filkin

Sir, With all respect to Mrs Smith (March 21) and her appreciation of the "Genius of Venice" exhibition at the Royal Academy, I think a protest should also be registered at the largely regrettable rise of the blacked-out exhibition.

Now that it is so much easier for so many people to travel, and that so much art, though from far-flung parts of the world, is available in magnificently reproduced form, is it really necessary that quantity should rule to such an extent over genuine attempt to offer enlightenment?

To have so much Venetian art thrown at us, all together, and now to have even more excessive case at the Tate's Pre-Raphaelite exhibition, serves the cause of little more than sensationalism: quite apart from the fact that it would take superhuman stamina to give due attention to every item, or that one would need to spend many days in the process, these exhibitions manage to contradict the very nature and purpose of the art they pretend to honour.

It will indeed be a tragedy if more subtle efforts, such as the recent "Artists of the Tudor Court" at the V & A, are to be swamped by the juggernaut approach.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN FILKIN,
42 London Road,
Datchet,
Berkshire,
March 22.

Hayward as 'showcase'

From Mr Bryan Robertson

Sir, It is perhaps not generally known that the Hayward Gallery serves as a receiving station and a storage and servicing centre for exhibitions created to travel round the country in addition to its essential function as the main "official" international-calibre exhibition centre for London - and, as such, our only equivalent to the Grand Palais in Paris for shows arranged with foreign governments.

Whether for London or the regions, these exhibitions have evolved from an idiosyncratic and independent policy democratically formulated and quite free of the vagaries of fashion or financial pressures that occasionally affect exhibitions policy at the Royal Academy or the Tate.

The "showcase" situation of the Hayward in London and the council's vigorous professionalism are vital factors in securing international loans for forming shows. The responsibility of the Arts Council in pursuing this work has become crucial since the closure of the Victorian and Albert Museum's circulation department - during earlier financial cuts. It would be tragic if the Arts Council jettisons this work under the populist smokescreen of diverting funds to the regions because the Hayward is in reality a vital crucible for servicing the regions.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN ROBERTSON,
73 Barnsbury Street, NI,
March 26.

Turning our back on CERN

From Professor E. Gabathuler

Sir, The decision by Sir Keith Joseph to proceed with a review of possible British withdrawal from CERN, as indicated in your paper of March 23, has very serious repercussions for those of us who are heavily involved in European research in elementary particle physics.

This research was started in universities such as ours in the post-war period, was subsequently carried out on two national accelerators, which were then willingly sacrificed to provide us with first-class facilities at CERN.

The recent discoveries of the intermediate vector bosons have emphasised the fact that CERN is the best example of international scientific and technological cooperation in Europe, if not in the world.

This decision will be wrongly seen by all European scientists as yet another example of Britain's intransigence in European cooperation, particularly at the present time, and will have far-reaching effects on future scientific and technological European joint projects.

It is interesting to note that the only other member state which has considered leaving CERN is Greece because of its limited scientific and technological resources. However, this has not happened. Spain, on the other hand, has just rejoined the year to allow its university physicists to participate in fundamental research and also to enable its industry to participate in related advanced technological developments.

It is ironic that one of the reasons given for this proposal to leave CERN is to provide more funds for the research councils to support areas such as factory research automation, remote sensing etc. These areas of technology are so necessary for future industrial requirements that modern industries are already involved in these fields.

Yours sincerely,
ERWIN GABATHULER,
Department of Physics,
University of Liverpool,
Oliver Lodge Laboratory,
PO Box 147,
Oxford Street, Liverpool.

Curbs on kerb-crawlers

From Mr J. N. Spencer

Sir, In his letter published on March 13 Mr Bright criticized the binding-over procedure in the Justice of the Peace Act 1361 as "antiquated legal procedure".

It is only fair to point out that this is the Act which established magistrates' courts and which is widely regarded as the equivalent of Magna Carta for them.

The binding-over procedure, along with magistrates' courts procedure generally, was confirmed in 1980 by the Magistrates' Courts Act of that year.

Yours faithfully,
J. N. SPENCER,
Bridport, Dorchester, Sherborne and Weymouth & Portland Magistrates' Courts,
Justices' Clerk's Office,
Law Courts,
Westway Road,
Weymouth,
Dorset,
March 18.

New exam level

From Mr Mark Ryan

Sir, Lord Flowers states (March 8) that "the universities would warmly welcome an arrangement which could expand and enrich the work of sixth-formers".

Many schools and colleges have been ambitious in establishing general studies syllabuses and courses: some of these courses are examinable at both A/O and A level.

The experience of this college is that universities and polytechnics have chosen to disregard the value of the nature and content of such syllabuses and courses. Like Lord Flowers, we in this college would "hope that those responsible for admissions to undergraduate courses will pay due attention", not necessarily to an intermediate-level examination, but rather to those well established and refreshing areas of the curriculum which allow students to "break free of the restricted range of subjects".

Yours faithfully,
MARK RYAN (Head, Department of General Studies),
King Edward VI College,
Stourbridge,
West Midlands,
March 12.

Hair restoration

From Mr William Golding

Sir, A week or so ago in Egypt I had the privilege of an interview with the Minister for Culture, His Excellency Mr Abdel Hamid Radwan. Among other subjects the minister raised in the most amiable manner the question of the return of the Sphinx's beard now in the vaults of the British Museum.

He was at pains to point out that, unlike some other objects, the beard is a lump of stone without aesthetic qualities and only of use or value when in its original position. The neck of the Sphinx is becoming increasingly eroded by blown sand and the centre of gravity of the head is now so far forward that without the beard and its supporting work the neck will crack at any moment and the head fall off. This literally colossal catastrophe would be laid to England's charge.

I most earnestly hope that the museum can find a way of returning the beard, if only as some kind of loan, or so remove at least one small source of international misunderstanding.

I am, Sir, yours etc,
WILLIAM GOLDING,
The Athenaeum Club,
Pall Mall, SW1,
March 21.

● Focus on our prizewinners: Page 19

COMPUTER HORIZONS

● IT message for Europe: Page 20

Financial support needs to begin at home

One would be forgiven for thinking that the apparent generosity of the government last week in its award of £180m worth of support for the microelectronics industry represented a change of heart and that its dogmatic opposition to unnecessary state funding had been revised.

One could even be forgiven for being confused since no such generous package, designed to add impetus to the microelectronics industry, is being offered to the state-owned microchip company Inmos which is in immediate need of cash and was supposed to be the British flagship of the UK microelectronics sector.

The mainstay of last week's financial package is a £120m grant offered through the Microelectronics Industrial Support Programme (MISP) which began under Labour in 1978 with a five-year budget of £70m and was to lose favour in 1980 for about 18 months and have its funding reduced to £55m. That amount, the Department of Trade and Industry assures us, generated £250m of additional investment by industry.

These new monies, said the energetic Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Information Technology, when announcing details of the package, are catalytic. They would generate about five times that amount from the private sector, inspiring British industry to commit £1,000m to the microelectronics sector over the next decade.

The philosophy of catalytic money is highly questionable. There are a few exceptions but most of the prominent names in the industry are already conducting their own research into microchip design, are more than able to fund that development and would need to invest in advanced systems and designs if they had any hope of competing with overseas manufacturers.

Are we to believe that £1,000m investment, which is the sum the government estimates must be spent by British industry to bring it on a par with the Japanese and the Americans - and that estimate is an extremely modest one - will occur through the meagre injection of £120m? That reasoning is not very convincing.

The information minister did concede that the investment from the companies would probably occur anyway but at a later stage. But the catalytic money is meant to encourage the industry to advance its plans. That reasoning is not very convincing, either, since the timing of such plans, assuming that they exist, is based on the need for that industry or company to react to the demands of the market. Whatever happened to the concept of competition, the free market principle and the independent entrepreneurial spirit?

Another anomaly is that not all the companies that might benefit from the MISP programme would be British. There is now a plethora of Japanese and American companies in the UK and they would be entitled to apply for such grants. If that were the case, and the government has conceded as much, there would be no award conditions to ensure that the result of such development be only used in British products or that British manufacturers should be given priority in supply.

But are not Japanese and American companies in microelectronics employing thousands in Scotland and Wales? Are they British or are they classified as "The Japanese" or "The Americans" with whom we are trying to compete? One would indeed be forgiven for being confused, particularly if they qualify, as they do, for British research grants.

That is why this catalytic support, at least as far as large British companies

and high technology multinationals is concerned, is a nonsense. Such support and probably at a more generous level, than 20 per cent - the average funding under MISP - should be reserved for small UK-owned companies and those with obvious need for financial support.

The multinational profile of the British electronics manufacturing sector means that the government must be careful who is being given British taxpayers' money. Generous grants and allowances have been showered on these multinationals already. A MISP grant, say the proponents of the scheme, will encourage these multina-

THE WEEK

By Bill Johnstone

nationals to conduct research and development (R & D) in Britain and not just use their British manufacturing bases as assembly shops. Ironically we have already been assured by government on a number of occasions that this would not happen anyway.

The situation needs serious review. In Scotland alone there are about 300 companies in the high technology sector. The Scottish Development Agency is rightly proud of the success it has had in attracting inward investment and has modestly played its part in reducing the high unemployment figures. The multinationals are equally as proud and sell Scotland overseas as "Silicon Glen".

According to the SDA: "Many of these have come from overseas and more than half of America's top 20 US electronics companies now have manufacturing facilities in Scotland."

"Recent successes have included

WANG (US) (£40m project), NEC (Japan) (£40m project), IBM (£40m extension to their long established Scottish operations), Sci Systems of Alabama, who are to set up in the next year and provide components to the computer industry, and the Japanese company Shin-Etsu who announced their £30m plan to manufacture silicon in Scotland."

Also National Semiconductors, the American owned multinational manufacturer, announced plans at the beginning of this month for a £100m project at Greenock in Scotland which will create 1,000 jobs.

Scotland has had its accolade and the explosion of the microelectronics industry there is a monument to the energy of the Scots and the Department of Trade and Industry. Even the prestigious IBM PC (Personal Computer) is being built for Europe at the IBM plant at Greenock.

The Welsh valleys are getting their share of silicon. About two weeks ago Sharp Corporation announced its plans to set up a video recorder manufacturing base at Wrexham, North Wales at the cost of £15m,

creating over 600 new jobs in the process. That was the latest high technology feather in the Welsh caps.

Nineteen overseas companies have announced their intention to create bases in Wales in the last twelve months, substantial proportions in the high technology microelectronics sector. The expansion plans and the new company investment have amounted to £100m since last April.

Inward investment must be applauded. It creates jobs no matter how lowly they may be. But if the object of MISP and other government support grants is designed to encourage British research activity which could not otherwise be funded then the philosophy must be re-examined.

We live in changed days from 1978 when MISP was first set up. Changed, indeed, since we seemed prepared to offer support to any organization other than the one in which the government already has a £100m investment. The confusion and the conflicts must be eliminated and such financial support that is made available must be deemed necessary and its benefits become the property of British industry.



Kenneth Baker: Inspiration for microelectronics industry?

Shortage of skill to feed machines

By Geoffrey Ellis

The immense benefits from the use of new technology in the office could well be eroded by the growing shortage of suitably trained staff, proficient in the use of the growing dedicated word processors or microcomputers.

This warning is given by Laurence Rosen, Sales and Marketing Director of the Alfred Marks Group, who also offers encouragement to those who seek adequate training in these new skills by pointing out that rewards are tangible for a secretary in Central London with no word processing skills, the average salary is £7,500; for a trained person, however, this figure increases by at least £1,500.

As one of the country's leading staff recruitment agencies, the group is well placed to assess the current condition of the job market. The facts that emerge make disturbing reading.

The growth in the field of office automation could soon run out of steam, warns Mr Rosen, as the supply of sufficiently trained staff dwindles. With the estimated number of word processors installed in the UK standing at 30,000 last year, only 73 per cent of WP bookings are now able to be filled, compared with 80 per cent in 1981. In most areas of their operation, an unfilled quota of 27 per cent is unheard of, the normal rate for other vacancies is still a healthy 92 per cent.

The cause of this shortage, says Mr Rosen, is the deteriorating standard of education. Less able students find it increasingly difficult to come to terms with training in the new technology. Many have dropped out of training courses when they find that their spelling and grammar are inadequate. As micro packages become more user friendly, so the need increases for commands to be correctly entered. There is no room for errors, no matter how small.



Mr Rosen: Hunt for literate staff.

The group is doing its best to help ease the shortage, operating its own training centre in Central London, where more IBM Displaywriter trainers are employed than at IBM itself. Set up a year ago at a cost of £200,000 it can handle thirty students each week, giving experience on a wide range of machines.

It is not only the secretaries who are lacking in knowledge. It is estimated that less than one out of two hundred managers is fluent when dealing with computers. They in turn are beginning to lose out on the career ladder. By removing themselves from areas of responsibility connected with computers, they are effectively allowing trained subordinates to supplant them.

With the proportion of office systems vacancies now accounting for eleven per cent of all vacancies, an amazing five-fold increase from twelve months ago, Mr Rosen warns that unless more help is forthcoming from central government, perhaps in establishing a training board to cater for the IT industry, we stand to lose the benefits that should accrue from technology in the office.

Are you sitting comfortably?

Operators are to be recommended to take a rest of between 10 and 15 minutes after every hour's continuous work on video display terminals, under new proposals by the Japanese Labour Ministry.

The proposals, now before the Central Labour Standards Council, are a response to an increasing number of complaints from operators that they are suffering headaches, eye fatigue and stiff shoulders or necks.

One recommendation advises that chairs for operators and desks for the equipment should be adjustable and the distance between display screen and the operator's eye should be between 40cm and 60cm.

After two false starts, the computer that started life as the Eran last year is now renamed the Enterprise, and should be available from September.

As a result of a legal tussle over the rights to the name, the company dropped the name announced last September. At the unveiling of the machine last year, marketing director Mike Shirley aimed at a spring launch, but the

advanced customised sound and graphics chips needed more debugging than the original designs suggested.

He hoped to manufacture an initial 150,000 machines between September and January, and mop up a large volume of the Christmas sales. The micro is being built on Tyneside by Welwyn Electronics, who will create at least ninety extra jobs there.

Tiny high-speed gallium arsenide transistors, three to five times faster than conventional silicon transistors, have been developed by a research team at Rifa AB of Stockholm, a member of the Ericsson telecommunications and electronic group.

The company says it is the best of the semiconductor materials now available and claims the transistors make Rifa a world leader.

The new transistors, the Metal Semiconductor Field Effect Transistor (MESFET), is mounted on sets of four on chips measuring

COMPUTER BRIEFING

only 0.35 x 0.49 millimetres enabling thousands of chips to be accommodated with the area of a fingernail.

The latest multi-tasking system from Digital Research, Concurrent CP/M, designed for use with 16-bit machines, now makes its facilities available to 8-bit users.

LSI Computers, makers of the Octopus, have emulated the system which offers all of the separate window facilities, for machines with an 8-bit system. Not only will users be able to use the vast selection of 8-bit software, but they will be able to run them in tandem with 16-bit software.

A new range of highspeed mainframe printers is now being distributed in the UK as a result of an agreement between Norbain

Data of Reading, with the Japanese manufacturers, Fujitsu. The printers, which are IBM compatible, are the M3033A and M3034A, which print 1300 and 1600 lines per minute respectively.

Norbain Data is a division of Norbain Electronics Group which recently gained an IBM listing, valuing the company at £7.7 million.

The UK games software industry is in for a lean year ahead, according to Nick Alexander, chairman of the Guild of Software

Houses, an industry trade association.

"The situation is a mirror image of what happened in the video industry two years ago," he explained. "Initially there was a sales boom and then sales dropped suddenly. The video shops that had sprung up all over the country had all stocked up, and there was a dramatic increase in copying and counterfeiting."

More than £100 million of games software is being stolen from the industry by tape-to-tape copying. The problem is growing rapidly and beginning to eat substantially.

"Meanwhile software piracy continues unchecked and the industry is in for a rough ride. I predict there will be considerable rationalisation in the industry this year, and only companies with sound financial backing will survive."

Contributors: Ross Davies, Geoffrey Ellis, Mark Stone, Frank Brown.

UK events

Microcomputer Networks Workshop, Computer Laboratory, Liverpool University, March 27-28. Sinclair Education Exhibition, Central Hall, Westminster, March 28-30.

Electron & BBC Micro User Show, New Horticultural Hall, Westminster, March 29-April 1.

Computer Aided Design, Met. Exhibition Hall, April 5-6. Artificial Intelligence Seminar, City University, London, April 7-8. Sir Frederick Osborn School Computer Fair, Sir Frederick Osborn School, Welwyn Garden City, April 8.

COMPUTER WALES, Cardiff University, April 10-12. Computers for Builders Exhibition, Cavendish Conference Centre, 82 New Cavendish Street, London W1, April 12. Personal Computer Games Show, Southall Conference Centre, Birmingham, April 20-22. ZX Microfair, Alexandra Palace, London N22, April 28.

Overseas

Hanover Fair, Hanover, Germany, April 4-11. Videostar 84, Hyatt Regency, Chicago, April 15-18.

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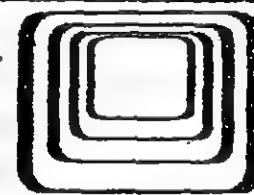
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For these challenging posts we require first class Design Engineers who have had several years' experience of logic design involving microprocessors. You must also have the flexibility to work in small multi-disciplinary project teams, achieving aggressive time scales while developing LAN, File Server and communications products.

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The cost of keeping customers happy

From Paul Rayner, chairman, Computer Retailers Association, Buntingford, Hertis: The Office of Fair Trading's investigation of the pricing policy of Apple Computer (U.K.) draws attention to a problem that faces all who use or trade in microcomputers.

A good dealer will always try to give sound advice to his customers and provide long-term support. The cost of this support, which includes training, installation and advice on software, is usually met out of the dealer's margin - which may be as low as 15 per cent. The last five years have shown that, with certain notable exceptions, organisations that sell microcomputers at very low prices are cutting their margins to an extent that they cannot provide effective support.

The Computer Retailers Association represents dealers who are committed by their Code of Practice to sell in a professional and responsible fashion and to provide support to users. We recognise that some users do not need support and should be able to take advantage of discount offers. The majority of users, however, benefit from having a knowledgeable and helpful dealer in their vicinity.

All manufacturers including Apple recognise this and are naturally concerned that cowboy dealers who "take the money and run" should neither damage the image of their product nor the viability of the conscientious traders on whom they rely for sales.

LETTERS

Professor J. F. Paynter, Department of Music, University of York: Rex Malik ("Revolution in Education", March 6) correctly identifies one of the major problems for education today, how to keep pace with change and help people deal with "the race to handle complexity". He says that he is groping, for if this thought has been previously expressed anywhere he has been unable to find it in the literature.

May I suggest that he looks in the recent literature of music education? He will find the topic widely discussed there, particularly in relation to classroom music activities for the majority which place emphasis upon creativity, decision-taking and the ability to use initiative in the absence of set procedures. A substantial ten year project (Music in the Secondary School Curriculum) funded by the Schools Council, devoted a great deal of thought to the very questions Rex Malik raises.

While I agree wholeheartedly with the suggestion he makes for the use of micro-computers in education, I would hope also that the developments in music education which have been taking place over the past twenty years would also give encouragement to Mr Malik. The literature in this field is now extensive - not only in English but in many other languages.

In the medieval Quadrivium music was one of the "essences" ("unaffected by material substances"). Because its abstract sound-worlds are available to everyone, creative musical activity deserves to be taken seriously for the contribution it can make to general education. It offers opportunities for all school students across a wide ability range to encounter problems of the kind Mr Malik identifies; that "run counter to skill learning routines of the past... and learning by rote."

From R. R. Whyte, Bentinck Road, Altrincham, Cheshire: Some years ago I created a small trust with one of the well known financial firms and now receive on February 1 each year the sum of £500. This money is sent to me in ten separate first class envelopes. Each envelope has enclosed a cheque for £50. When remonstrating with the firm for their gross inefficiency they pleaded that the computer program responsible was written in 1972 and it would be too expensive to rewrite it: a girl clerk could earn her salary in the saving of postage alone.

How our micro contest finalists put it together



JON DINGLE won first prize in the South West region for his "Bikesafe" program to help young motorcyclists avoid accidents. He is a Naval Lieutenant at Plymouth. His wife bought him a Spectrum, on which he now writes games and simple applications programs. Although he has no formal computer experience, he is at present involved in procuring a system for the Navy. His first priority when he gets his BBC machine will be to buy a disc drive to enable many of his files to be stored and quickly accessed.



ERNEST PHILLIPS, a university building surveyor at Lancaster, won first prize in the Yorkshire and Humberside region with his scheme to use a micro as an anti-burglary device. He tried to interest his family in a group entry, but they thought his proposal was not a winner. However, his thirteen-year-old son relented and offered assistance with his BBC machine. He is keen to see computers exploited as a tool, rather than as an electronic gadget.



ROSEMARY CRAWFORD, organizer for a local WRVS Meals on Wheels service, was nagged into producing her proposal which won first prize in the North House Counties. Her family were so fed up with seeing her wading through up to twenty lists each week, changing routes, diets and delivery details for the meals service, they persuaded her it could be computerized. Despite having taken an engineering course, she admits to knowing absolutely nothing about computers, but sees them as a useful piece of equipment.



The ten regional winners in The Times National Microcomputer Challenge competition are this week preparing their presentations for the judges at the UK finals at the Holiday Inn, Marble Arch, on April 18, as part of the London Computer Festival.

Today we feature our first five finalists; the other five will appear next week.

They will be competing for a first prize of a full BBC Microcomputer system including a BBC Micro Model B, Disc Storage System and either a 14 inch colour video monitor or a Sparkjet printer. Second prize is a £100 W H Smith voucher and third prize, a £50 voucher.



JEFFREY COOKE, with only a year's experience of computing, came first in the North and N Ireland region. He represented a group who proposed acoustic braille as an aid for the blind. He is currently working with a ZX81 to which he is adding speech chips, and after taking a Computer Studies "O" level, would like a career in computing, maybe in the CAD field. He has found that working with the disabled has been very rewarding.



DAVID GREEN, winner in the Welsh region with his computerized system for calculating divorce maintenance payments, is a solicitor who has been pushing the case for a more systematic method of calculation for several years. With between 70-80,000 maintenance applications each year, he feels the legal system is becoming overburdened with complex calculations, often with no common formula.

PC prices dropping to calculator levels

By Frank Brown

Eight-bit personal computers could be as cheap as calculators within two years, as a result of a joint venture recently announced in the United States. The software from Digital Research Inc. and two integrated circuit manufacturers, Zilog and American Microsystems Inc., are to collaborate and produce an IC containing a Zilog Z-80 microprocessor and Digital Research's Personal CP/M operating system on the same chip.

The device is being designed by AMI using the company ACT computerised chip-design software. First samples are scheduled to be available in May.

Personal CP/M is an enhanced read-only memory (rom) of Digital Research's popular operating system. Integrating it with the Z-80 into an AMI operating system processor will create a chip that will be in big demand for low-cost personal and portable computers.

CP/M is by far the most widely-used operating system for 8-bit personal computers. There are more than 9,000 applications software packages available for use with it worldwide.

To cater for this vast new category of CP/M users, people able to buy computers in the £50-£250 price bracket - personal CP/M contains features such as "Help" screens and other visual aids to enable inexperienced people to control the various functions of the operating system.

It also allows two-way communications in natural language, rather than computer code. For example, the user can add a printer to the computer, or copy data from one disk to another, the software providing a step-by-step explanation of how to do it.

Prices for the new chip have yet to be worked out, but could be around 50 dollars or less (depending on quantity ordered) when mass production has been established.

Prices of games software could fall by as much as two thirds within the next twelve months, says John Maxwell, sales director of Galactic software.

BA takes off with health check by computer

By Alan Lewis

Health checks at British Airways are now being carried out by computer. The airline, which was recently voted Best International and Best European Airline, is now leading the airline world in computerized medical technology.

A new electro-cardiograph system has been introduced, which analyses the data fed into it and compares the results against a bank of stored information like the patient's medical records. It links an IBM S885 electro-cardiographic Cart, via a British Telecom link, to a centralized IBM computer in Bishopsgate, London.

This means that a patient's electric heart waves, recorded in Speedbird House at Heathrow, can be transmitted directly to the central computer in London where an almost instantaneous analysis and readout will take place. The system then sends a report back to the Speedbird House Medical Centre.

The system is completely confidential to British Airways medical service, says Dr Frank Preston, director, medical services. It demands positive identification of the user unit and operator before accepting and processing data.

The main advantages of the system are speed and accuracy. Before acquiring this system, ECG records had to be mounted on cards and sent to the British Airways heart specialist in London, who analysed them, added his written report and returned them by post. Now all this can be completed within a couple of hours. Three nursing staff have been trained in the use of the equipment.

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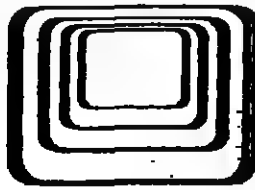
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LIVERPOOL POLYTECHNIC Computer Services Department ANALYST/PROGRAMMER (ADMINISTRATIVE) £8154-£8712

An Interactive Management Information System is being developed for the Polytechnic by the Computer Services Department's Administrative Computing Group. A further member of this team is now required to take an important role in analysing and developing the system. In consultation with users he/she will specify and develop systems using database management and forms management software on the Polytechnic's DEC-20 and VAX systems.

Applicants should have a relevant degree or equivalent qualification and previous experience of administrative computing. Please quote Reference No. LP 632.

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The successful candidates will be involved in all aspects of systems support and development for the above systems and in addition for the various microcomputer systems in use in the Polytechnic. Applicants should have a relevant degree or equivalent qualification. Please quote Reference No. LP 633.

For further particulars and an application form contact the Personnel Officer, Liverpool Polytechnic, Rodney House, 70 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5UX. Telephone 051-227-3361, Ext. 255.

Closing Date is 14 days from the appearance of this advertisement.

Spreading the know-how throughout Europe

By Roger Woolnough

With the softly-softly deliberation which usually marks new policy directions in the European Community, plans are being laid which could result in an important industrial resource being exploited far more widely.

The resource is information - the raw material which research people, business executives and market researchers all need to develop new products. So far it has been available only to a few, but if the plans succeed, a relatively immature industry could start to flourish, and create new business opportunities in its own right.

The target which the Community's Directorate General XIII has in its sights is the on-line bibliographic data base, which users can consult using a computer terminal.

Such data bases cover a vast range of subjects - agriculture, economics, law, science and technology of all kinds. Euronet DIANE, the Community's vehicle for providing access to information in this way, now lists about 500 data bases.

But while this suggests that business is booming already, DG XIII is far from happy about the way things stand. "Europe has a gap in the negative sense, and the gap tends to grow each year," says Dr Jansen van Rosendaal, the Community's Director for Information Management.

"Fifty per cent of the on-line information used by Europeans comes from the United States, and step after step we are losing more to our American competitors."

Van Rosendaal is grappling with a particularly complex problem, and getting Europe to co-operate in solving it is far from easy. This is partly because the value of the market is, at present, fairly small.



Van Rosendaal: 'We are losing'

The European on-line bibliographic financial services such as Datastream and Reuters, is worth about 20 million dollars a year. Even though the annual growth rate is reckoned conservatively at 40 per cent, it does not come high on most people's lists of priorities.

Van Rosendaal explains some of the market constraints. At first, data base services simply took over the function of a printed index, putting references on a VDU screen. Users still had to do 95 per cent of the work to get the information they needed.

Things have improved, but users are still left with 85 per cent of the effort. As a result, only experts tap into the systems. One estimate is that expert users in Europe number only about 350,000.

Extensive research is needed if the work of the users is to be cut to about five per cent, and only then will there be a breakthrough to a much wider market. Van Rosendaal sees

many economic benefits flowing from that. "We have no lack of information in Europe," he says. "That's not the problem: it's accessibility."

What particularly irks van Rosendaal is Europe's reliance on US data bases. About half the annual 20 million-dollar revenue goes to America, even though much of the content of the data bases was drawn from European sources.

Data can have strategic implications, and there have been examples where access to data bases has been withdrawn from certain countries. This was because they did not provide input to them, but van Rosendaal points to the USA's growing protective attitude towards high technology, and believes that Europe's increasing dependence on the States for information cannot be a good thing.

He also thinks that building and operating data bases could provide Europe with a new source of jobs, once the technology allows a move beyond the present-day elite groups of users.

But getting Europe to agree on what should be done is proceeding at a characteristic snail's pace, with consultations, reports, discussions and recommendations. It could all take a long time to resolve.

DG XIII is trying to stir interest by organizing pilot projects in such areas as electronic document delivery, electronic publishing and video conferencing. Wisely, van Rosendaal is not trying to rush things at government level.

"We do not come with concrete proposals," he says. "It is such a complex matter with strong political aspects. For that reason we intend first to organize political discussions leading to recommendations for projects."

Nothing to start with except an idea

Most people start a company aiming to fill a gap in the market with a new product or service. Chris Sealy and Paul Shimell took the opposite approach.

"We had no products, no clients, no staff," says Sealy. "What we had was a business plan. Our objectives were financially oriented. We aimed for a certain turnover in a three-year period, with a certain growth and a certain profitability."

Naturally, when the two men got together in the late seventies they did have some idea of what they should do. They both felt the microcomputer gave an opportunity for them to create their own company. But they started with consultancy to see where that would lead. "Consultancy got us off the ground," Shimell explains. "If it was within our skills, we took it on. But if something related to the three-year business plan, we would stick with it."

Sealy and Shimell had both worked at ICL, a forerunner to ICL Sealy on marketing and Shimell on the technical side. But they did not meet until a few years later, when they both turned up at Leasco.

Once they had decided to strike out on their own, the business plan was the first thing they tackled. "We wrote it quietly in the midnight hours," Sealy recalls. "It showed we had to raise about £50,000, which seemed a huge amount of money."

They found a backer in a private company, Graispool, and as they were taking such a broad approach they called their own business Micro Scope.



Managing director Chris Sealy (right) and technical director Paul Shimell at Taplow

That was in 1979, and the Micro Scope strategy has worked. Consultancy work has taken them into some esoteric corners of technology, ranging from mushroom growing to solar energy, but it also helped

them to spot several winners. Today, Micro Scope has products and systems for a number of specific markets.

One of these is the medical field, where it provides intelligent prescription labelling systems, and a computer set-up for nursing homes called Micro Care. Another area is the travel trade, where it supplies reservation systems for tour operators. In communications it has specialised in videodata, including a range of networking equipments under the name Videogate.

The unusual mix of Micro Scope's products is seen as strength by the two founders.

"It would be easy to exploit just one of them," says Shimell, "but it would die in the long term, because it would go into a cycle and die."

Certainly things have paid off financially. This year Micro Scope is projecting a turnover of £2.8 million with a £600,000 plus profit. The spring of 1985 could see a move to the Unlisted Securities Market.

"We are in the growth business," Sealy comments, "and the vehicle for that growth is micros. Where they take us is very much serendipity."

R. W.

How to get outside cargo into the air

HeavyLift Cargo Airlines, based at Stanstead airport, Essex, is using computer graphics to assist its cargo planning team with the loading of large and awkward-shaped items. Mark Stone writes. It specialises in the movement of outsized cargo around the world and with its fleet of Belfast and CL44 Guppy aircraft. HeavyLift is often called upon to transport items that till now could not have been considered for airfreight.

When it started, the airline formed a load-planning department to advise clients on the feasibility of air transportation for loads and on the preparation of cargo for shipment.

"But due to the unique capabilities of the Belfast," said Bruce Bird, cargo planning manager, "nearly every loading sequence is different and we have to present a piece of cargo to the aircraft's rear ramp at any height from ground level upwards and manoeuvre it up, down or sideways at various times during the loading operation."

The 22-ton lifting capacity of the Belfast's ramp can also be used during loading, producing yet another set of variables.

Now the company uses a computer and all the possibilities come up on the screen. Bird added: "We can change any feature at will and store all the intermediate steps and solutions for future use. In effect, it means we can load a heavy or outsized piece of cargo into one of the planes without stepping out of the front office."

The company believes that using computer graphics has enabled it to speed up its decision-making process and produce technical standard drawings.

The computer, micro-based on the Apple, also gives a complete visual record of each load - an invaluable aid for future work and, says Bird, "impressive when demonstrating the aircraft's characteristics to new customers." Coupled with a separate file on each project, updated as each word processor, HeavyLift is building up a library on the air transportation of "really difficult loads."

Japanese move in as Trilogy slips behind

By Kevin Cahill

A major realignment in the mainframe computer industry looms as a Japanese manufacturer moves to take control of the United States-based Amdahl Corporation.

The founder of Amdahl Corporation, Dr Gene Amdahl, concedes a further six-month delay in the likely delivery of his new machine. His new company, Trilogy, has announced that it has solved an overheating problem on the key chip to be used in the new computer. Despite the chip "fire" the likely delivery date

for the Trilogy mainframe is now mid-1986, and the machine will not be a single processor as originally planned but a twin processor similar to that offered by IBM.

The need to use two processors means that Trilogy was unable to get the planned 30 million instruction per second speed in a single processor, and this will add to the manufacturing costs of the final version.

Despite the change, Dr Amdahl expressed himself confident that the computer would still offer significant price and performance advantages over

the likely alternative from IBM, codenamed Sierra.

IBM is not having it all its own way either. Industry commentators in the United States say that recent mainframe announcements from IBM mean that the company is experiencing difficulties with the Sierra.

The tribe of IBM watchers, supplemented by 42 financial analysts who regularly write about the company on Wall Street, expected IBM to announce the Sierra this month, but instead IBM announced a series of enhancements to its

existing 308X mainframe range.

The watchers now say that the Sierra announcement is likely to be delayed until the end of this year, with first deliveries in 1985. Various reasons are given, but the prevalent view is that IBM has run into significant problems with the new technology in the Sierra.

Trilogy reckoned that it needed a further 60 million dollars to take the company into its first year of deliveries. The new delays are likely to add 30 or 40 million dollars to Trilogy's launched costs, making

the overall project a 500 million dollar venture.

This is a pointer to one reason behind the Fujitsu involvement with Amdahl Corp. When Dr Gene Amdahl founded Amdahl Corp, he encountered significant delays and funding difficulties. Fujitsu came to the rescue and until recently held about 30 per cent of Amdahl Corp.

This stake has now been increased to 53 per cent or 55 per cent, with the purchase of the 20 per cent of Amdahl Corp stock from one of the original backers, Heizer Corp, for \$189m.

Heizer is claiming publicly that it wished to liquidate its holding in order to fund further, smaller startups. In fact Amdahl Corp is in the second year of developing a new mainframe to rival Trilogy's and the IBM Sierra.

The company is understood to be using the same approach as Trilogy, basing the machine on a wafer-sized chip. Trilogy is a good guide to the likely cost of this and Amdahl Corp is unlikely to be generating enough cash to cover such a project.

In addition, Fujitsu is itself a major mainframe supplier, and is likely to have taken control of Amdahl Corp in order to pool the development costs of the next generation of machines.

Some American commentators, much to Amdahl Corp's chagrin, are even suggesting that Amdahl Corp will simply become a distributor for the Fujitsu-built future machines. In Europe Amdahl Corp is selling similar machines to the ICL and Siemens IBM compatible mainframes which Fujitsu supplies, in direct competition with its new controlling shareholder.

In the last analysis, the mainframe industry is likely to be smaller by one supplier if Fujitsu makes a move in the direction of merging its mainframe development with that of Amdahl Corp.

One loser in such a move could well be the Irish. Amdahl has one manufacturing plant there, and Trilogy is hoping to begin manufacturing near Dublin next year.

Further delays to Trilogy could jeopardize, and will certainly delay, the Irish startup.

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

The next tax target for Lawson's boot?

A tax reforming Chancellor of the Exchequer is likely to leave few stones unturned: for that reason alone the chilling whisper that Mr Nigel Lawson is examining, with a view to exterminating, some of the exotic tax privileges living beneath the gilt-edged market is almost certainly true. Most vulnerable to a crushing boot is the "special ex-dividend" dealing facility which allows buyers to take just one interest payment on a gilt held for a year and a day, thus effectively capitalizing the second payment.

The tax saving made possible by this manoeuvre, which can be repeated ad infinitum, makes it possible for institutions especially, who pay tax (the net funds) to behave more like pension funds who do not (the gross funds). They can more easily move into high coupon stocks, which are meant to attract the gross funds, out of the low coupon stocks which ostensibly are tailor made for net funds.

If the "special ex" is stamped on, it might, ironically, do something for the low coupon gilts which have become orphans of the storm since the great building society sell-off provoked by the Chancellor's revival of their capital gains tax dealing exemption. As the broker Buckmaster & Moore notes in a study of low coupon long-dated stocks, the market has become biased toward a gross fund valuation. The firm expects that bias not to last.

The game would go to the "net" if the Chancellor did end the "special ex" concession. But it should happen for other reasons, notably the big boost to insurance companies' cash flows in the next financial year, as the changeover effects of introducing Miras are absorbed.

"Special ex" was not the only thing absorbing gilt traders yesterday. They were glued to their dealing screens, waiting and watching for clues about Federal Reserve Board moves in New York - and the Government Broker stole up behind them with a twilight-toed funding move. He is issuing \$500m of stock via three taplets: \$200m of Treasury 10 per cent 1987; \$200m of Exchequer 10 1/4 per cent 1995; and \$100m of Conversion 10 1/4 per cent 1999. First dealings in the new stocks will be on Wednesday.

The market's initial reaction was one of relief that the Bank of England had avoided issuing a full-blooded tap, concentrating rather on creating stock which could be eased into portfolios without the uncertainty generated, for example, by a tender offer. Sensitive areas like 1989, scene of much funding recently and the 21st century have been avoided, while the choice of coupon for the medium dated taplets is shrewd. With no obvious counterparts, valuing the newcomers is made just that little bit trickier.

Cynical traders suggested that the areas chosen were where the jobbers were short of stakes. Ruder spirits recalled that Conversion 1999 sprang out of the Treasury Convertible 2 1/2 1999, or "Maggie Mays", issued in last year's election run-up; they immediately dubbed the taplet, "Son of Maggie May", and marked down accordingly.

The choice of Wednesday as the first dealing opportunity in the new stocks could be significant. It appears to turn the taplets into a calculated gamble by the Bank and the Government Broker that the US discount rate will not be raised. The Fed has rarely, if ever, raised the discount rate while the Federal Open Market Committee is meeting to discuss possible policy changes. The FOMC met yesterday and will meet again today. Today the regular US funding programme starts, with the issue of a \$60 billion 4-year note that leaves little time to change the discount rate.

Nearer home the issue of taplets may calm the clamour over imminent hikes in British base rates, stimulated by comments of senior NatWest executives over the weekend. Some claimed yesterday that British base rates will rise again, if the US discount rate goes up. In theory, the funding move also scotches that tasty rumour.

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK listing for US loan group

Great Western Financial Corporation, America's third highest savings and loan company with assets of about \$10 billion, comes to the London stock market today. Credit Suisse First Boston, the investment bank, is sponsoring the listing and the broker is Rowe & Piman.

Great Western has concentrated on developing adjustable rate mortgages and net earnings recovered to \$73.7m (£31m) in 1983 from \$75.8m of losses the previous year.

Freemans, the mail order company, more than doubled its pretax profits for the year to January 28 to £14.128m, an increase of nearly 88m. Turnover, which includes VAT, increased to £319m from £315m. The final dividend of 2.2p makes a total for the year of 4.5p up from 4.15p last year.

Tempus, page 22

Octopus pulls out of Sharpe battle

Mr Paul Hamlyn's Octopus Publishing Group backed out of the bidding for W.N. Sharpe after the latter's board agreed terms worth 500p for each voting share or £36m in total with Hallmark of Kansas City, one of the world's leading greeting cards companies and also one of the largest privately-owned companies in the US. The Office of Fair Trading will take a close look - the combined market share of the two groups in greeting cards could amount to over 30 per cent - but with more than 1200 companies in the industry and the cost of entry relatively small, Hallmark is confident that there will be no reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, Hallmark, which was first named in *The Times* as the rival suitor for Sharpe, already owns Valentines of Dundee (bought in 1980).

Mr Hamlyn plainly did not like his introduction to the cut and thrust of a contested takeover. He said: "It has all been enormously time consuming and traumatic. Although I have learnt a lot over the last two weeks, it has been much too disruptive and there is a touch of Dallas in it all. These merchant bank boys might like it but I prefer to run a successful business."

Judging by the number involved he is right about the merchant bankers. Kleinwort Benson acted for Sharpe and would have acted for Hallmark but for the conflict of interest. That cherry went to Hill Samuel.

Morgan Grenfell, which cooked up the idea of bidding for Sharpe, acted for Octopus. N. M. Rothschild, whose Sir Claus Moser sits on the Octopus board, was not too pleased but "Rothschild is still our merchant bank. Morgan acted jointly in the Sharpe bid because it was their thing", Mr Hamlyn said.

Octopus emerges with a profit of about £1m because of options that various institutions, including Sun Alliance, gave it to buy their shareholdings in Sharpe.

Going abroad to seek redress

As the British authorities grapple with the problems of investor protection, a new US ruling has meant that United Kingdom investors are better protected under United States law than under their own. And for it, they must thank a Greek. Precedent was established last November by Mr Psimenos that any foreign investor may take legal action against a brokerage house of any nationality, providing that the securities into which the investors were placed are traded on one of the numerous American exchanges.

The action was against E. F. Hutton and concerned commodity trading on the Chicago Board of Trade. But Mr Ned Swann, a Harvard-educated commodities specialist lawyer, says the new law would apply to trading on all American exchanges.

It was a significant ruling for him. He has been taken on to represent the 90 or so investors who lost an estimated \$7m more than 15 months ago on American investments recommended by Bache Halsey Stuart, the brokerage house now controlled by America's leading insurance company and called Prudential-Bache.

The committee representing the investors met last night at London's RAC Club to be brought up to date. Executive members of the committee said yesterday that British legal advice had indicated a similar action would have slim chance of success in the United Kingdom.

In addition to the \$7m losses, investors are claiming punitive damages of \$200m which represents about two-thirds the net worth of Bache at the last balance sheet.

The action, being contested by Bache, alleges that a highly speculative and high-risk investment which represents a gearing of 100 to 1 was sold by Bache's London and West German salesmen as a low-risk, conservative investment which would provide a steady income with the minimum need for constant supervision by the investor.

Good Relations to expand

Good Relations, the only public relations company quoted on the Stock Exchange, is likely to use its shares for a significant acquisition this year. It will be the first time Good Relations has used its paper for a large purchase since being quoted in 1981.

Several chairmen of national industries have been given retrospective salary increases for 1983 that are well in excess of both the inflation rate and this year's public sector pay limit.

The biggest gainer has been Sir George Jefferson, chairman of British Telecom, whose salary was increased last year from £67,000 to £85,000, an increase of 25 per cent.

The increases means that Sir George, whose corporation is scheduled to be privatized this year, has taken over the role of the highest paid state industry chairman. He is followed by Mr

Hints of expansion were given yesterday with bumper profits from the company. For the 12 months to the end of last December, Good Relations raised turnover from £3.4m to £6.1m on which it earned pretax profits of £903,000, up from £300,000.

Other so far undisclosed government figures show that a number of key chairmen in the transport industry have just received salary increases of at least 15 per cent. They include Mr Norman Payne, chairman of the British Airports Authority, whose salary has been increased from £39,375 to £46,000, an increase of nearly 17 per cent.

Sir Frank Price, the part-time chairman of the British Waterways Board, has seen his salary rise from £18,852 in 1982 to £22,275 last year, an increase of 18.5 per cent. Sir Frank, who retired in June, has been chairman of the Waterways Board for nearly 16 years, the longest of any state industry chairman.

A substantial minority of nationalized industry chairmen are, however, still waiting for 1983 salary increases, nearly a year after they were due to have been implemented. Board members of several industries have not received a pay rise since April, 1982.

Exco doubles profits and asks shareholders for £68m

By William Kay, City Editor

Exco International, the money broking and financial information group, yesterday announced doubled profits and asked shareholders for £68m, part of which will be used to set up one of London's biggest for-profit trade credit operations.

The one-for-four rights issue sent the existing market price spiralling downwards from 56p to 51p. It is the second time in six months that Exco's followers have had to reach for chequebooks. Last September the company raised £48m.

Including other rights, the number of Exco shares in issue will have swollen by 73 per cent in a year.

"We cannot win," said Mr John Gunn, the chief executive, yesterday. "If we had placed the shares or borrowed the money,

people would have complained that they were not being given a chance to get in. But believe me, we can handle this money."

On turnover up from £44.7m to £84.1m last year, Exco's pretax profit grew from £16m to £34.5m, thanks largely to a faster rate of installing Telerate financial information screens and selling the service elsewhere. Telerate's profit surged from £5.4m to £18.4m. Earnings per share rose from 16p to 28.8p.

WICO, the Hong Kong stockbroking outfit, is going to start in two years has gone from nothing to reserves of £10m. That and the Gartmore fund management side pushed combined profits up from £1.5m to £5.2m.

By contrast, the traditional

money broking added less than £1m to £13m because of wafering margins and quiet trading on the London Stock Exchange.

That is one reason why Exco is so keen to move into new areas.

The latest venture is London Forfeiting, into which Exco is sinking £16.2m for a 55 per cent stake. British and Commonwealth Shipping, which owns 30.7 per cent of Exco, is paying £8.8m for 30 per cent of the new firm.

Forfeiting is the discounting of bank-guaranteed promissory notes or bills of exchange arising from international trading. Exco recently had a good made much headway in London against traditional acceptance business. Exco has recruited a ready-made team to run it.

This is another step towards Exco's aim of blanket financial

services coverage. In a few weeks, it expects permission to start its own broker-dealership on the London Stock Exchange.

"We can now offer the same cradle-to-grave corporate finance as a merchant bank," Mr Gunn claimed.

The Exco approach has been to assemble the complete range of services without producing a one-stop supermarket. This has the advantage of making it less apparent to rivals exactly where the group is heading and avoids giving potential clients the impression that if they take one service from Exco they must take the lot.

The rest of the £68m will be used to buy out the minority interest in WICO, and to expand in the US, mainly into fund management and broking.

Sellers clip share gains

After a weak opening, shares recovered strongly yesterday. At the first count, the FT30 Share Index was down 7.8 to 882.2. But, throughout the day, prices improved and by mid-afternoon the index was recording a small gain.

However, in late trading sellers got the upper hand and the index closed 1.9 down at 889.6. But market sentiment remained confident. There was considerable trading activity and many of the large, institutional investors were prepared to pick up selective parcels of shares.

Government stocks had a quiet session, achieving gains of up to 2 1/2. They drew comfort from the pound's performance on the foreign exchange market. The key rate against the dollar was 75 points higher at 1,445.0.

But it was a weaker dollar (worried that American interest rates will be held) rather than a strong pound which caused the movement. Indeed, sterling was lower against most of the Continentals and its international value was 0.1 down at 80.3.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index	1118.7 down 1.6
High: 1119.9 Low: 1110.7	
FT Index: 889.6 down 1.9	
FT Gilts: 83.19 up 0.07	
Bargains: 30.41	
Marketwide USA Leaders	
Index: 114.78 up 0.99	
New York: Dow Jones Industrial	
Average: (latest) 1151.70 down 3.14	
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index	
10,453.73 down 19.39	
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index	
1156.95 down 4.7	
Amsterdam: 167.3 down 0.3	
Sydney: AQ Index 732.7 up 2.0	
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index	
Brussels: General Index 144.84 up 0.22	
Paris: CAC Index 163.1 up 0.8	
Zurich: SKA General 304.80 down 0.10	

CURRENCIES

STERLING	
\$1 445.00 up 1/2 cent	
Index: 80.3 up 0.1	
DM 3.7650 down 0.0125	
FF 1.559 down 0.0450	
Yen 325 up 0.50	
Dollar	
Index: 128.6 up 0.8	
DM 2.6042 down 0.0193	

NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling \$1 445.00	
Dollar DM 2.6042	

INTERNATIONAL

ECU £0.593782	
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INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:	
Bank base rates 8%	
Finance houses base rate 9%	
Discount market loans week fixed 8%	
3 month interbank 9-9 1/2%	
Euro-currency rates:	
3 month dollar 10 1/2-10 3/4%	
3 month DM N/A	
3 month FR FNA	
US rates:	
Bank prime rate 11.50	
Fed funds 10 1/4%	
Treasury long bond 6 1/2-9 1/4%	
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export	
Finance Scheme IV Average	
reference rate for interest period	
February 8 to March 8, 1984	
inclusive: 8.375 per cent.	

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):	
an \$386.50 on \$387.40	
Yves \$387.50-388 (\$268-268.50)	
New York (latest): \$387.35	
Kruggerand (per coin):	
\$399.50-401 (\$278.50-277.50)	
Sovereigns (new):	
\$91-92 (\$283.75)	
*Excludes VAT	

BICC chairmanship for Barlow

By Andrew Cornelius

The former Post Office chairman, Sir William Barlow, is leaving Thorn EMI to become chairman of BICC, the cables and engineering group, in what appears to be an important coup.

Sir William had been tipped as a possible future chairman of Thorn EMI. Instead, he will become chief executive and chairman designate of BICC from July, and succeed Lord Pencock, chairman of BICC for the past four years, on December 31.

Sir William will give up his position as vice-chairman of Thorn EMI, remaining a non-executive director, as part of a series of management changes within the group. This comes after the appointment of Mr Peter Lalster, the chief executive, as chairman and the appointment of Sir Graham Wilkins, a non-executive director, to the company, as non-executive deputy chairman.



Sir William Barlow: insight into electronics industry.

contract with the company which finishes next year.

"I also always believe that it is a good thing for a new chairman to start on the first day of the year particularly when the company's accounts run from year to year."

Sir William is 59, and is at present non-executive deputy chairman of BICC. He is a former chairman of the Post Office.

The appointment of Sir William to the £100,000 a year chairmanship of BICC is likely to herald a new era of the company's development into the electronics and telecommunications field.

● Lever Brothers, a subsidiary of the Unilever foods and detergents group, yesterday announced the appointment of Mr Ronald Gray as chairman after the retirement of Mr L. Hardy, chairman for the past 10 years.

Ashcroft to take over kitchen firm

By Jonathan Clare

Mr Michael Ashcroft's Kean & Scott has expanded into the home improvement market with the acquisition of a private kitchen furniture company and a 10.8 per cent stake in Moben Group.

Kean & Scott, quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, is paying up to £25m for Kitchens Direct of Manchester, which was set up only three years ago by Mr Stephen Bowler who had earlier bought Kitchen Queen out of Moben.

The new company will complement Kean & Scott's existing fitted bedroom business, Sharps.

Yesterday Mr Len Morris, Moben's chairman, said he had had no contact with either Mr Ashcroft or Kean & Scott's management. He believed that neither of the two groups' shareholders had sold out and that the Kean & Scott stake was acquired in the market.

"We don't see any more importance or significance in this than we would attach to any other big shareholder," he said.

The shares were bought from Panmure Gordon, the stockbroker. Kitchens Direct is a similar business to Moben's own fitted kitchen company except that half its sales are for self-assembly.

The two moves on the same day fired immediate speculation that Mr Ashcroft intended to put Moben and Kean & Scott together. Moben's shares rose 3p to 29p.

Direct selling of kitchen furniture already includes VAT at 15 per cent, so the Budget change will make such businesses relatively more competitive.

Kean & Scott is paying £1m initially for Kitchens Direct, with £6m in cash and the balance in Kean & Scott shares at 56.5p. Further payments up to a total of £22m depend on profits reaching £4m this year and £7m next year. Profits last year were £2.2m on sales of £18.2m. Net assets are £1.9m with cash balances of £3m.

● Spring-Ram Corporation, the kitchen and bathroom equipment group which came to the Unlisted Securities Market last year, is to get a full quote next year. Mr Bill Rooney, the chairman, gave news of the progression to a full listing after reporting a 56 per cent increase in profits to £1.6m last year.

Argentina refuses to meet creditors

By John Lawless and Peter Wilson-Smith

Argentina confirmed yesterday that Señor Bernardo Grinspun, its Economy Minister, had cancelled a crucial meeting with the country's leading international creditors over its \$43.6 billion worth of foreign debts.

Señor Enrique Garcia Vazquez, the Argentine Central Bank president, said that neither he nor Señor Grinspun would be attending the meeting of the 11-bank steering committee at the Uruguayan town of Punta del Este which was scheduled for yesterday.

The fact that Argentina's two most senior financial spokesmen have missed an eleven-hour meeting to stop US banks having to declare their loans "non-performing" - because of Argentina's failure to pay interest - must increase fears about whether the country is edging towards a total repudiation of its debts.

It is understood that efforts by Mr Guy Hunsford, the head of the Latin American division of Lloyd's Bank International, to keep the meeting alive, however, Señor Grinspun is believed to have agreed to purely private talks with Mr

William Rhodes, the committee's chairman and a Citibank senior vice-president.

American banks were in no way reassured by a statement from Señor Garcia Vazquez that Argentina and its creditors would solve the problem of heavy interest arrears - and that they were holding "intensive talks" - because he declined to say what form the solution would take.

"Without Grinspun at the negotiating table, progress will be impossible," one creditor said.

There are also other indications that Argentina is not making much headway in negotiations with the international Monetary Fund. According to sources in Washington, talks have not yet reached the stage where a letter of intent is being discussed.

On the positive side, however, only Argentina managed to avoid a fall in gross domestic product in 1983 among Latin American economies, registering growth of 2 per cent after a 5.4 per cent fall the previous year.

Combined English buys Biba

By Jonathan Clare

Combined English Stores, the high street retail chain which takes in Salisbury, Colliers Wood and Alton Chemists, has bought out AMEV, its Dutch partner in Biba, the West German fashion chain, for £2.9m.

AMEV, an insurance company, has also sold its 9.3 per cent stake in Combined.

Combined paid for AMEV's half share in Bibas through a vendor placing of 4.3 million shares on the London stock market. Together with AMEV's placing of its shares, the market yesterday absorbed almost one-fifth of Combined's total share capital.

Full-year profit, reported yesterday by the group yesterday, were up from £1.8m to almost £6m and the total dividend has been increased from 1.82p to 3.5p.

Tempus, page 22

Salaries surge past inflation rate and 3% limit

Big pay rises for state industry heads

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

Several chairmen of national industries have been given retrospective salary increases for 1983 that are well in excess of both the inflation rate and this year's public sector pay limit.

The biggest gainer has been Sir George Jefferson, chairman of British Telecom, whose salary was increased last year from £67,000 to £85,000, an increase of 25 per cent.

The increases means that Sir George, whose corporation is scheduled to be privatized this year, has taken over the role of the highest paid state industry chairman. He is followed by Mr

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Other so far undisclosed government figures show that a number of key chairmen in the transport industry have just received salary increases of at least 15 per cent. They include Mr Norman Payne, chairman of the British Airports Authority, whose salary has been increased from £39,375 to £46,000, an increase of nearly 17 per cent.

Sir Frank Price, the part-time chairman of the British Waterways Board, has seen his salary rise from £18,852 in 1982 to £22,275 last year, an increase of 18.5 per cent. Sir Frank, who retired in June, has been chairman of the Waterways Board for nearly 16 years, the longest of any state industry chairman.

A substantial minority of nationalized industry chairmen are, however, still waiting for 1983 salary increases, nearly a year after they were due to have been implemented. Board members of several industries have not received a pay rise since April, 1982.

The main sufferers are the chairmen and board members of the state-owned energy industries, including British Gas, the Central Electricity Generating Board, the Electricity Council and the South of Scotland Electricity Board.

Other industries which are still awaiting backdated salary increases for 1983 include British Airways, British Rail and the Post Office. Board members of the National Coal Board and British Shipbuilders, the two industries which are in the direct financial straits have not been recommended for any salary increases last year.

Mail Order

freemans

Results for 52 weeks ended 28th January 1984

	52 weeks ended 28th January 1984	52 weeks ended 29th January 1983
£000's		
Turnover including VAT	319,079	313,020
VAT	37,133	36,429
	281,946	278,591
Trading profit	15,906	9,173
Interest payable	1,778	2,816
Profit before taxation	14,128	6,357
Taxation	6,379	1,518
Profit after taxation	7,749	4,839
Extraordinary item - deferred taxation	2,843	-
	4,906	4,839
Earnings per share	11.0p	6.9p
Interim dividend paid	1.9p	1.9p
Proposed final dividend	2.6p	2.25p
	4.5p	4.15p
	3,179	2,929

NOTE: Extraordinary item

Full provision has been made for deferred taxation in view of the Budget proposal to eliminate

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Bomb tragedy hits Harrods profits

By Derek Pain

Hopes that House of Fraser, the Harrods stores group achieved profits of around £45m in the year ending January will be dashed when the company reports next month.

Stock market optimists have, it seemed, overlooked the impact of the tragic Harrods bomb blast before Christmas. This hit trade badly at a peak selling time at Harrods and other West End stores in London.

With a lower property sale profits, the year's result is likely to emerge a little below £40m compared with £33.2m in the previous year.

This performance, after the fine interim showing, will be disappointing and will provide ammunition for Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland of Lomrho in his confrontation with the House of Fraser chairman, Professor Roland Smith. House of Fraser shares were 2p higher at 26.2p yesterday.

Shares started the new account on an uncertain note. But early hesitancy was quickly dispelled and although they did not hold their best levels the undertone remained firm.

Stock shortages were responsible for many of the sharper gains. Government stocks, helped by a firmer pound, recorded modest progress. The Bank of England has created £300m of 10 per cent Treasury 1987; £200m of 10½ per cent Treasury 1995; and £100m of Treasury 10¼ per cent 1999. Dealings are expected to start tomorrow.

Among leading shares P&O attracted attention after Trafal-

gar House's withdrawal from the bid scene. They opened 18p lower at 298p before rallying to 311p as speculators contemplated the possibility of a bid from Sterling Guarantee.

Bank shares were weaker on worries over the Argentine - and other Latin American countries - debt problems. And the decision of the US credit agency, Standard and Poor, to put the British banks on "credit watch" after the Budget tax changes did not help sentiment.

Midland Bank fell 2p to 382p. The chairman, Sir Donald Barron, in his statement

Is De Vere Hotels and Restaurants, which was once left at the altar, about to collect another proposal? The ageing chairman and controlling shareholder, Mr Leopold Muller, wants to sell. But last year's £40m bid from Mr Gerald Holland collapsed. The shares have been strong lately and yesterday gained 13p to 296p. One suggestion is that Mount Charlotte Investments is lining up an offer.

to shareholders, expressed the hope that the group's "upward trend of profitability" will be resumed in the present year.

Electronics returned to favour. Insurances produced a smattering of good gains with Guardian Royal, up 10p at 571p and Minister Assets, helped by takeover talk, 9p to the good at 138p.

Property shares made progress and oils were mixed with BP recovering part of its ex-dividend mark down at 483p. Pilkington, the glass makers

slipped 11p to 348p as profit takers moved in after the gain which was inspired by takeover gossip. Rotor, ahead of results, rose 6p to 107p and the Scotch whisky group Arthur Bell, Reporting today, rose 3p to 176p.

Bowater rose 5p to 284p in front of today's results and Babcock International, also reporting, slipped 4p to 188p. But Davy International, where hopes of a Babcock bid swirl, rose 5p to 79p.

Francis Industries, the textile group where a bid has materialized from Suter, gained 8p to 133p.

Elsewhere, Thorn-EMI weakened on fears about even more intense video competition and AC Cars shot ahead 13p to 63p on vague talk of a capital injection.

Mr Swraj Paul looks set to do battle over control of Brockhouse, the loss-making West Midlands engineering group. His Caparo Industries has bought a further 3 per cent of Brockhouse, taking its stake to 20.3 per cent. Evered, the Arab-backed specialist metals group, which claims influence over 11 per cent, launched a rival £3.7m cash and share bid for Brockhouse earlier this month. It was announced hours before Brockhouse shareholders were to vote on an all-share deal with Caparo, giving it a 61 per cent stake. Brockhouse shares closed last night at 47p unchanged.

The loss making engineers Cocksedge (Holdings) has reduced its interim deficit from £280,000 to £152,000 and the shares responded with a 2p gain to 29p. The company has not

achieved a profit since 1979 but Mr Alan Catchpole, the chairman, hoped that it will be in the black in 1984-85.

Another engineering group, Wiljay (formerly Williams and James), fell 7p to 76p on the passing of the final dividend and a swing from a £190,000 profit to a £298,000 loss.

Elsewhere on the engineering pitch, F Pratt fell 1p to 40p. Maurice James Industries has sold 100,000 shares cutting its shareholding to less than 5 per cent.

W J Tod, which makes reinforced plastics, made a sparkling USM debut. Placed at

J. F. Nash Holdings, the family company of Mr John Nash, head of Nash Industries and Reliant Motor, has established a 13.4 per cent shareholding in C and W Walker, the process plant group which has made losses for three years but may now be in profit. Walker's shares rose 1p to 28p on the Nash presence.

143p, the shares opened at 188p, and touched 191p before resting at 186p. The company is a spin off from the C H Beazer building group.

The computer group, Micro Business Systems, was suspended at 390p. The company is paying £14.5m in cash and shares for Computer Peripherals (which distributes Telex terminals) and Data Efficiency, which distributes computer-related goods. Another £1m to meet expenses is being raised by a share placing. The chairman, Mr Clive Richards, also announced profits more than

doubled at £1.8m and a year's dividend of 2.25p a share. The company intends to move from the USM to a full listing.

With its acquisitions, analysts believe Micro could achieve profits of approaching £5.5m in its present year.

Bassett Foods rose 1p to 141p after news that Avana, up 2p at 531p, now has acceptances of 13.12 per cent for its two-for-seven share exchange bid. The offer has been extended until April 6. Under takeover rules, Avana cannot extend the bid, which is worth about 152p a share, beyond April 17.

The movement in and out of the shares of Sumrie Clothes continues apace with news that Wincham Investments is taking advantage of the share price reaching its present 190p peak to unload 45,000 shares and reduce their stake to 5.6 per cent. Since Mr Harold Tillman took control last year, great things have been expected from the previously loss-making menswear chain. Mr Harvey Ross continues to hold a near 30 per cent stake, while a group of Monaco-based investors own a further 19.6 per cent through a company called Chevalerie.

Breweries were flat with Marston, Thompson and Evershed, successful bidders for Border Breweries (Wrexham), losing 2p to 58p and Boddingtons Breweries, the worst performing beer share of the past 15 months, falling to 87p.

Equity turnover on March 23 was valued at £56.892m (29,323 bargains). The number of British and Irish shares traded was 234.5 million and gilt bargains totalled 3,374.

TEMPUS

A Christmas glitter brightens Freemans

Had it not been for a Christmas and New Year bonanza Freemans' glittering pretax profits would have bordered on dullness. At the end of October sales were still lagging behind the 1982 figures, the unexpected December boom, backed by a successful January sale, came to the rescue, pushing results beyond expectations.

However, the fickleness of the consumer is not all. Freemans' impressive performance is underpinned by a determined and effective campaign to correct a dismal bad debt position. The board is reluctant to give details of bad debts, because the figures are so large, but it has acted positively to reduce them. With two consequences: not only is less written off but cash flow has improved substantially, borrowings reduced and the gearing ratio halved. With January sales helping to reduce end-of-line stock write offs, the working capital position also looks much healthier.

Freemans should now embark on a programme of controlled expansion. The rapid increase in the number of agents in 1982 was counterproductive - it simply fuelled the bad debt problem. About 5,000 agents have been pruned from the field; it is up to the remaining 585,000 to capitalize on last year's performance. The shares were up 14p to 132.

More than half the shares were part of a vendor placing to buy out the stake that Amey, the Dutch insurer, holds in BIBA, CES's West German women's fashion chain. The balance was the placing of Amey's own 9.3 per cent stake in CES, both moves reflect a change of heart by Amey towards diversification of its business.

The market's encouraging response - the shares rose 8p to 74p - stems from three factors. The year figures are undeniably good though little better than CES achieved in its heyday in 1978-79. Second, the Christmas sale of the Harry Fenton menswear change to the Burton Group, disposed of the reason for some of those broken promises.

Third, prospects with the exception of the Eurocamp Travel look bright if consumer spending remains buoyant.

Ironically, Fenton had at last come right with much reduced losses, no mark downs and no redundancies - but it needed capital expenditure of £3m this year. Burton's offer must have looked a godsend. A chastened Mr Murray Gordon has no intention of going back into retail clothing in Britain.

Growth in profits this year will come from Salisbury - which provided handbags for the women who shop in J Hepworth's Next chain - and Collingwoods, the jeweller. The fully taxed PE ratio is around 11, hardly a demanding rating.

the amount which would have been needed to provide for deferred taxation was more than £10m. Although the Budget announcement of a phasing out of first-year capital and industrial building allowances has sent most companies scurrying to their deferred tax account Carlton is apparently unmoved. Had the company decided otherwise, deferred tax disclosed as an extraordinary item would have taken a large chunk out of pretax profits of £9.2m.

Clarification, not heightened uncertainty, is called for at a time when Hawker Siddley has made an offer for the 27 per cent of ordinary shares which it does not already hold in Carlton. The offer was made before the Budget and the formal other document should be in shareholder's hands by the end of this week.

The whole question of how deferred taxation provisions should be treated in the light of the Budget changes requires urgent attention. When a provision has not been made in the past but now needed there is an argument for treating this as a prior year adjustment and putting the adjustment straight through reserves rather than scarring the profit and loss account with an unwieldy extraordinary item. The frustration which companies like Carlton now face is easy to understand when it was the accountancy profession which encouraged the board not to make a deferred taxation provision four years ago.

The intricacies of deferred tax apart, Carlton has had a relatively good year. The battery market still shows few signs of picking up, the whisky trade remained quiet, and it was left to the housebuilding side to demonstrate real progress.

MONEY MARKETS

Credit was in short supply once again yesterday. The Bank of England initially estimated the shortfall at £500m, but the figure had risen to £600m by the finish.

In all, £663m of assistance was given by the authorities. This consisted of outright purchases of £469m of bills across the four bands at established rates, sale - and - repurchase agreements on £144m of bills to April 24 at rates of interest of 8½ to 9½ per

cent, and £50m of late lending to the market.

Discount houses had paid 8½ per cent and 8¼ per cent for funds during the morning, but as the day wore on and the market became more confident of the Bank's ability to take out the shortage, so rates eased.

Interbank overnight money again hovered around 8½ per cent for much of the day, but eased to about 8 per cent mid-afternoon before swinging up to 9 per cent bid at the finish.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Sterling finished near its best in an uneventful day's trade, with the dollar weakening against continental currencies towards the close.

The pound gained ¼ of a cent at 1.4450 but made little headway on European currencies.

Its closing trade-weighted index was off 0.1 at 80.3. Dealers said they believe a rise in US interest rates has already been discounted, but the size of any rise would govern whether the dollar

moves fractionally firmer in the short term.

However, they see a resumption of the dollar's weaker trend soon.

After an early level of DM2.6130, the dollar slipped against the Deutschmark for a close almost 2 pfennigs cheaper at 2.6040 (2.6235).

Unmoved by middle East reports about oil tankers being bombed, the pound did better towards the close after weaker openings to most continental currencies.

'Safeguard' for 20,000 jobs

About 20,000 jobs will be created or saved this year by the 170 local enterprise agencies according to Business in the Community, the umbrella body for enterprise agencies.

The overall failure rate for companies in their first 12 months is 5.5 per cent it is claimed.

Enterprise agencies are costing private and public sector supporters about £9.5m annually.

Combined English

Combined English Stores has been one of the retail sector's orphans for as long as the City cares to remember: there have been too many broken promises about future performance. Yet yesterday punters were happy to absorb about one-fifth of the equity which unexpectedly came on offer and would have accepted

Carlton Industries

A notable omission from Carlton Industries results yesterday was any mention of deferred taxation. The policy has been not to make any provision, since capital allowances were expected to continue to exceed depreciation. At the end of December, 1982,

Stopping at either Abu Dhabi, Dubai or Bombay, BIG TOP is the only Stretched Upper Deck 747 flying between London and Singapore. With the kind of inflight service other airlines talk about, and most people dream about. SINGAPORE AIRLINES

NOW OUR BIG TOP 747s ONLY STOP ONCE EVERY DAY,

THERE'LL BE NO STOPPING US.

Recovery at Low and Bonar

Low and Bonar, the Dundee packaging-travel group, beat the most optimistic forecasts yesterday when it reported pretax profits of £9.1m for the year to November 30, against £3.5m the year before. That turnaround was achieved on a turnover of £174.9m, compared with £173m. The final dividend of 4.5p makes 7.5p for the year, against 5p last time.

The main boost to profits came from the group's move into packaging in Europe and the United States, but the rationalized engineering side also managed a worthwhile rise. He shares rose 6p to 236p.

In brief

● **BIRMINGHAM MINT:** A conditional contract has been exchanged for the acquisition of the electrical contacts and bimetal business of Sheffield Smelting for a maximum of £1.5m. B.M. will also buy about £1m worth of precious metal currently employed in the contacts business in exchange for an equivalent amount of metal in bullion form.

● **REYDON GROUP:** On sales up from £12.9m to £16.52m, pretax profits rose from £1.65m to £2.07m in 1983. The total net dividend is going up from 4.3p to 4.85p a share and the company is making a one-for-five scrip issue.

● **ANVIL PETROLEUM:** Half-year to Dec 31, 1983. Turnover £476,000 (£237,000). Pretax loss £269,000 (loss £287,000).

● **ULA FIELD FINANCING:** Chemical Bank, Svenska Petroleum Exploration and a syndicate of international banks have signed a \$180m (£125m) Eurodollar financing to help in meeting part of S.P. Exploration share of the development costs of the Ula Field in the Norwegian North Sea.

● **ESTATES GENERAL:** Board reports record pretax profit of £1.1m for 1983, against £1.02m. Turnover £3.46m (£3.68m). Dividend 2.1p (1.9p).

● **ASSOCIATED BRITISH INDUSTRIES:** In the half-year to Dec 31, 1983, turnover and pretax profit on ordinary activities rose by 20 per cent and 87 per cent respectively to £12.8m and £386,000. Interim dividend 2.2p (same). Year's results should be much healthier than previous year, board reports.

● **SQUIRE HORN:** Turnover for 1983 £6.18m (£6.83m). Pretax loss £128,000 (profit of £243,000 last time). Dividend cut from 1.8p to 0.75p net a share. Board satisfied that a profit will be made in the present year.

● **LONDON & EDINBURGH TRUST:** Dividend of 3p a share for 1983, compared with prospectus forecast of 2.75p. Pretax profits £2.55m (£1.05m). Turnover £28.13m (£24.39m). Rental income for 1984 will be significantly in excess of £1m. Board looks forward with confidence.

● **NATIONAL OIL:** National Oil Australia's newest oil flotation, will start its market life with \$4.7m (about 15m) in cash after a listing by reverse takeover and a rights issue underwritten by A.C. Goode, a broker. After the placing of 4.4 million shares at 50 cents each, with London and Australian subscriptions, there will be a one-for-two rights issue at 55 cents a share. The company is coming to the market by a listing using the "shell company" Chaparral. Mining, which has changed its name to National Oil.

Bailey Morris examines America's budget-dominated election campaign

Democrats' battle of style and substance



Senator Gary Hart (left) and Mr. Walter Mondale: New Agenda versus New Deal

The 1984 American election campaign is turning into a tale of two deficits.

Never in the history of American politics have so many candidates been pressed for such specific detail on how they plan to manage the economy through the fiscal year 1989.

From New Hampshire to Alabama, through the Middle West and on to California, the candidates are being held accountable as never before for their economic campaign promises.

A stinging charge by the former astronaut Senator John Glenn that Mr. Walter Mondale's promises to virtually every special interest group entailed huge costs which would swamp the recovery persuaded the former vice-president to quantify his programmes in a four-page budget fact sheet in January. Mr. Mondale promised to halve the deficits projected under President Reagan's programmes for that year.

Candidates, under this pressure, have gone to unprecedented lengths to respond to public opinion polls and the deficit concerns of the United States media by providing specific figures to back their proposals for tax increases, defence spending cuts and a reordering of domestic spending priorities.

It is true that the "new ideas" advocated by Senator Gary Hart differ little from the "new deal" liberalism embodied in the policies of Mr. Mondale, his leading opponent for the Democratic presidential nomination. But that is not the point.

Senator Hart is on record in support of a 5 per cent surtax on joint incomes of more than \$100,000 (£70,000) and on individual incomes exceeding \$70,000. Mr. Mondale would also tax the wealthy, imposing a 6 per cent surtax on incomes of more than \$100,000.

Gone are the vague promises which marked earlier elections. In their place are elaborate economic models underpinning specific budget programmes designed to demonstrate the ability of leading Democratic contenders both to attack the Reagan deficits and to manage the economy.

The numbers are fluid and not to be taken too seriously. That can be best demonstrated by the vivid contrast between President Reagan's 1980 pledge to balance the budget in 1985 and the record \$200 billion deficit projected under his present fiscal policies.

But the fact remains, in the words of Mr. Henry Reuss, the former Wisconsin Congressman who coordinates Mr. Mondale's economic advisory group, that "this is the most budget-focused campaign in US history".

In Mr. Reuss's opinion, the ideas behind the specific budget proposals may well be the deciding factor in what is expected to be a crushing two-man contest for the Democratic nomination. The candidates' economic policies, which have changed little since the Democrats' defeat in 1980, are the key to the election.

Reagan on the Republican side have recognized the magnitude of the deficit problem by declining to promise a balanced budget at the end of a four-year term.

This year, not one of the three leading candidates has promised to bring the deficit below \$100 billion by 1989.

That is a reversal of the post-war tradition in which candidates routinely pledged their faith in fiscal discipline by promising a balanced budget within four years. Since President Harry S. Truman, however, only President Lyndon B. Johnson has succeeded in keeping that promise.

A new independent analysis comparing the candidates' budget proposals with present spending trends revealed that programmes espoused by President Reagan and Mr. Mondale would continue the trend of deficits in excess of \$200 billion through 1989. Senator Hart's programme, however, would significantly reduce it to an estimated \$108 billion.

The key components of the Hart and Mondale programmes are similar - both focused heavily on defence cuts and tax increases - but the two Democrats nevertheless walk slightly different economic paths. Both offer clear liberal alternatives to the supply-side policies of Mr. Reagan.

Senator Hart, whose candidacy was not taken seriously until his decisive win in the New Hampshire primary, said in his fiscal blueprint last month, that he would cut defence more than any other candidate, holding real growth to 3 per cent a year, largely by jettisoning the big weapons systems favoured by the Reagan administration.

He would raise \$35 billion in new revenues from a 10 per cent surtax on corporate income and a lengthening of the depreciation on corporate real estate from 15 to 20 years.

he says are more reliable. He wants to scrap the MX missile, the B1 bomber, the F-18 fighter aircraft and other smaller weapons systems.

On the domestic side, Senator Hart wants to spend an additional \$26 billion restoring cuts by the Reagan Administration in education and nutrition programmes and adding funds to repair America's decaying bridges, roads and the like. He proposes savings of \$13 billion by capping and cutting health care benefits, and \$9 billion from nuclear energy and synthetic fuels programmes.

Senator Hart proposes a dramatic overhaul of the US tax system to increase federal revenues. His goal is \$104 billion in new revenues by 1989. He plans to reach it by capping the benefits of Mr. Reagan's tax cut enacted last year at \$750 for those with incomes of more than \$50,000. This would raise \$9 billion.

He would gain \$45 billion more by deferring next year's planned indexing of tax brackets, except for low income families. He would raise \$3 billion in new revenues from the 5 per cent surtax on individuals.

The senator wants to raise \$35 billion with new corporate taxes including a 10 per cent surtax on corporate income and a lengthening of the depreciation on corporate real estate from 15 to 20 years.

In addition, to decrease US dependence on foreign oil, he wants to impose a \$10 a barrel tax on oil imports.

This is the bare bones of the Hart programme which envisages the lowest deficit of all the candidates.

again on the chicken supper circuit.

Despite his claims and the elaborate budget model which backs them, at least three independent organizations have found the Mondale figures wanting.

Reviews by the Wall Street Journal and the independent Congressional Budget Office suggest that the Mondale deficits would be in the neighbourhood of \$230 billion, not much below the \$271 billion deficit projected under Mr. Reagan's policies by 1989.

Mr. Mondale's promises, however, appear to stretch the limits of his budget targets. But Mr. Reuss said that if this were so and the deficit stayed at about \$200 billion, Mr. Mondale would simply defer spending programmes.

Defence savings

Mr. Mondale's programme would reorder significantly the priorities contained in Mr. Reagan's programme by taking the following steps: Defence spending would be held to an annual growth rate of between 4 and 5 per cent for a savings estimated at \$40 billion. Mr. Reagan initially asked for an increase of 13 per cent which he revised downward to 7.5 per cent.

Mr. Mondale would terminate the MX missile and the B1 bomber but proceed with alternate systems, the Midgetman missiles and the Stealth bomber.

He would block new nuclear aircraft carriers for the US Navy.

Tax proposals to generate a minimum of \$60 billion include deferring indexing in addition to unspecified reforms to low and moderate income taxes. These would produce savings of \$20 billion, Mr. Mondale says. A 10 per cent surtax on incomes of more than \$50,000 would add \$9 billion in revenues. The 5 per cent surtax on individuals would add \$3 billion.

This is where the perceived differences emerge. Senator Hart believes the new deal is a tired concept which has lost its appeal, particularly to voters under 40. He is, therefore, attempting to stay to the right of the liberal line by advocating an unfettered market place and strong growth incentives. The Mondale campaign implies that Senator Hart tilts toward producers at the expense of consumers.

Mr. Mondale's policy of aid to older industries and workers and protectionist policies such as domestic content legislation limiting American sales of foreign cars becomes an "industrial strategy" in Mr. Hart's campaign.

He wants more incentives in the market place, less intervention and an expanded role for the president in making America more competitive.

In the end, whether Democrats choose the new agenda of Senator Hart or the new deal approach of Mr. Mondale, voters will have to contrast it with the economic message of Mr. Reagan.

And despite the deficits, Mr. Reagan's message is an upbeat one. In his campaign appearances, he continually put forward this message: "Ask yourself if you aren't better off now than you were four years ago".

With inflation in the 4 per cent range, the economy growing smartly in the 7 per cent range in the first quarter and unemployment dropping, Mr. Reagan's policies look good to voters.

But the President is also aware of the public's deficit concerns. Without giving up either his tax cuts or his arms build-up, he has proposed a modest \$150 billion down payment of deficit reductions now. And he suggests that if re-elected he would take much broader action later to reduce the deficits.

Pressed to elaborate on these actions, Mr. Reagan declines, saying he will not throw up an unpopular list of programmes for Democratic contenders to shoot down.

But his aides have suggested that if re-elected the President would take it as a mandate from the people to impose regressive excise taxes and a value added tax in addition to pushing through steep cuts in middle-class entitlement programmes.

Top businessmen hit at EEC 'protectionism'

By John Lawless

Protectionist policies by EEC governments are threatening to break up the Community, a group of Europe's top businessmen said yesterday.

The group considered that the EEC would have full employment had it been able to "match the job-creating performance" of either the United States or Japan in the past 10 years.

The fact that those in work had been able to push up real wages faster than their output was the reason, the group said, for the addition of 3 million people to the community's jobless total.

An 80-page statement, which has taken a year to research, will be debated at a conference with EEC commissioners in Paris today. It has been signed by 44 chief executives in six countries.

The British supporters include: Mr. Kenneth Durham, of Unilever; Sir Peter Walters, of BP; Sir Trevor Holdsworth, of GKN; Mr. Patrick Sheehy, of BAT Industries; Sir Leslie Smith, of the BOC Group; Sir James Goldsmith, of Cavenham; Sir Alex Jarratt, of Reed International; Sir Patrick Meaney, of Rank; and Sir Arthur Norman, of De La Rue.

Mr. Ian MacGregor, the National Coal Board chairman, and Sir Reay Geddes, Midland Bank deputy chairman, are also signatories.

- WALL STREET

	Mar 20	Mar 21		Mar 20	Mar 21		Mar 20	Mar 21
Air Inc.	12 1/2	12 1/2	Am. West. Bank	10 1/2	10 1/2	PG&I	38 1/2	38 1/2
Alcoa	48 1/2	48 1/2	Am. Nat. Bank	10 1/2	10 1/2	Princeton Granite	28 1/2	28 1/2
Alcoa Chem.	48 1/2	48 1/2	Am. Sav. Bank	10 1/2	10 1/2	Rockwell & Gas	28 1/2	28 1/2
Alcoa Ind.	48 1/2	48 1/2	Am. State Bank	10 1/2	10 1/2	Saginaw	28 1/2	28 1/2
Alcoa Int'l.	48 1/2	48 1/2	Am. Trust Bank	10 1/2	10 1/2	Saginaw Steel	28 1/2	28 1/2
Alcoa Corp.	48 1/2	48 1/2	Am. Nat. Bank	10 1/2	10 1/2	Saginaw Steel	28 1/2	28 1/2
Alcoa Ind.	48 1/2	48 1/2	Am. Nat. Bank	10 1/2	10 1/2	Saginaw Steel	28 1/2	28 1/2
Alcoa Int'l.	48 1/2	48 1/2	Am. Nat. Bank	10 1/2	10 1/2	Saginaw Steel	28 1/2	28 1/2
Alcoa Corp.	48 1/2	48 1/2	Am. Nat. Bank	10 1/2	10 1/2	Saginaw Steel	28 1/2	28 1/2
Alcoa Ind.	48 1/2	48 1/2	Am. Nat. Bank	10 1/2	10 1/2	Saginaw Steel	28 1/2	28 1/2
Alcoa Int'l.	48 1/2	48 1/2	Am. Nat. Bank	10 1/2	10 1/2	Saginaw Steel	28 1/2	28 1/2
Alcoa Corp.	48 1/2	48 1/2	Am. Nat. Bank	10 1/2	10 1/2	Saginaw Steel	28 1/2	28 1/2
Alcoa Ind.	48 1/2	48 1/2	Am. Nat. Bank	10 1/2	10 1/2	Saginaw Steel	28 1/2	28 1/2
Alcoa Int'l.	48 1/2	48 1/2	Am. Nat. Bank	10 1/2	10 1/2	Saginaw Steel	28 1/2	28 1/2
Alcoa Corp.	48 1/2	48 1/2	Am. Nat. Bank	10 1/2	10 1/2	Saginaw Steel	28 1/2	28 1/2
Alcoa Ind.	48 1/2	48 1/2	Am. Nat. Bank	10 1/2	10 1/2	Saginaw Steel	28 1/2	28 1/2
Alcoa Int'l.	48 1/2	48 1/2	Am. Nat. Bank	10 1/2	10 1/2	Saginaw Steel	28 1/2	28 1/2
Alcoa Corp.	48 1/2	48 1/2	Am. Nat. Bank	10 1/2	10 1/2	Saginaw Steel	28 1/2	28 1/2
Alcoa Ind.	48 1/2	48 1/2	Am. Nat. Bank	10 1/2	10 1/2	Saginaw Steel	28 1/2	28 1/2
Alcoa Int'l.	48 1/2	48 1/2	Am. Nat. Bank	10 1/2	10 1/2	Saginaw Steel	28 1/2	28 1/2
Alcoa Corp.	48 1/2	48 1/2	Am. Nat. Bank	10 1/2	10 1/2	Saginaw Steel	28 1/2	28 1/2
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MOTOR RACING
Prost sees
grand prize
victory as
a bonus

RACING: TIM FORSTER SET FOR SANDOWN DOUBLE

Walwyn's careful handling can pay off again for Special Cargo

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Fulke Walwyn has performed many fine feats of training since he first took out a licence in 1939, but few compare with the triumph of Special Cargo this month. Off the track for two years recovering from leg trouble, the Queen Mother's 11-year-old has been nursed back to peak fitness with immense skill and he has rewarded that patience with memorable victories in the Grand Military Gold Cup here at Sandown Park on March 9 and the St. Patrick's Day Handicap Chase at Lingfield Park eight days later.

One look at those legs which include two carbon fibre implants and it is a wonder that he has stood training at all, let alone be firmly on course for a crack at the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown towards the end of next month. First, though, he must come through today's test in the Alanbrooke Memorial Handicap Chase with flying colours. This is expected to do at the expense of Plundering, who jumped so well

when winning over today's course and distance earlier this month.

Mossy Moore, the winner of the Grand Annual Chase at Cheltenham on the first day of this year's National Hunt Festival, turns out again for the British Aerospac Rapier Novices Chase with an especially chance of winning, especially now that Gambir does not appear to be all that he cracked up to be.

De Phuvine will be trying to win the Royal Artillery Gold Cup for the second year in succession, but after that fall at Chesham, not long ago I cannot help wondering whether he will beat Quarrier, even though he is more experienced. Quarrier has the advantage of being ridden by Tim Thompson Jones, one of the most accomplished amateurs.

Romany Nightshade, a stable companion of Quarrier, could complete a nice double for Tim Forster, their trainer by winning the Royal Artillery Handicap Chase. I thought that there was

much to like about the way Romany Nightshade attacked his fences when he won his last race at Newbury.

With Leicester abandoned already because of a waterlogged course today's only other meeting is at Ayr. The Auchans Maiden Stakes has all the makings of developing into a duel between Bounty Hawk, trained in Yorkshire by Bill Elsey, and Hafeef who has made the long journey north to

Scotland from Newmarket where he is trained by Harry Thompson Jones.

George Robinson, our Newmarket correspondent, speaks well of Hafeef, an expensive Sandy Creek colt who showed a lot of promise in his only races at Great Yarmouth and York last season. Now he is napped to beat Bounty Hawk whose form peaked off last year and ended with total and utter humiliation in the William

Futurity at Doncaster. Earlier in the season he had run Creag A Sgor to a head at York. Judged on that performance he would have a favourite's chance of winning today, but I prefer Hafeef.

Course specialists

AYR

TRAINERS: 10 winners from 191 runners, 10.5% J. Berry, 9 from 102, 8.9%; D. Smith, 13 from 205, 6.3%.

ROCKEFELLER, 23 wins from 117 rides, 19.7%; J. Lowe, 27 from 178, 15.1%; M. Birch, 29 from 210, 13.8%.

Mossy Moore, who tries for a seventh victory of the season at Sandown Park (3.30).

away with the Maiden, qualified for three hunter chase finals and may be fast enough to win ladies' races for Linda Cannon.

The FITZWILLIAM OPEN, won impressively by French Saint, ridden by J. Berry, was won by Sporborg from Jimmy Lad (John Sharp) and the favourite Corked (Simon Sherwood), the best quality race seen at Chesham this year, among the unplaced runners being the Drunken Duck, having his pre-Grand National outing, Glenview and Cool Secret. French Saint took up the running a mile out and repelled repeated challenges from

Corked and Jimmy Lad, recording the fastest time of the day, 11.4. The Sprint Farrier Men's Open championship for East Angles, hitherto dominated by horses belonging to Joe-Tanner.

All seven favourites scored at the SOUTH HEREFORDSHIRE, where Robert Bellamy, son of the Garrow's clerk of the course, has been the dominant force in his new course with Spritstone, Little Bismarck, jumping better than at the last meeting, took the Men's Open by about 150 yards from Hay

Merchant, the only other finisher in a field of six.

It was a great day for Richard Lee, who not only saddled Lay The Trump and Freedom to win the Adjutant and Ladies' but also sent Clear Friede to win the HARRISWAY Open at Chesham. Lee's horse, On a very heavy going at the MEYNELL AND SOUTH STAFFS Pam Sherwin's horse, Rabel, ridden by Stephen Brookshaw, made most of the running to win the Men's Open by eight lengths. In the Ladies' race, Susan Baxter brought off a surprise win on her father's Lean Lord.

Miss Pidgeon escapes with a shaking as Random Leg buckles

Point-to-point, by Ian Reid

A stirring duel between Teresa Webber on Brockie Law and Jenny Pidgeon on Random Leg ended unfortunately for the lady champion when she was unseated at the last fence of the GARTH AND SOUTH BERKS RMC Lady's Open at Tresdown last Saturday.

Brockie Law, jumping boldly, made the running until the home straight, when Random Leg (re-routed from the abandoned Pegasus Club Meeting at Kilmie) ranged alongside and seemed to have taken his measure. Going for a big one at

the last, however, Random Leg screwed on landing and a hoof struck his rider's leg as she lay on the ground. Happily, an X-ray examination at Aldershot Hospital showed no bones broken. Miss Pidgeon may even be able to partner Zarzafi at the Catstock next Saturday.

There was another upset in the Men's Open when Fay Related, the 9-4 favourite, ridden by Philip Scouler, the Garth secretary, was outjumped at the last fence and outstayed on the sticky going by Right Mingle, with Mark Pitman up. Master Humphrey, who ran

away with the Maiden, qualified for three hunter chase finals and may be fast enough to win ladies' races for Linda Cannon.

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AYR

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- 1. 2200 BLACK FALCON M 4-10-0 B. McCall 5
- 2. 3010 AFRICAN PEARL (F) J. Berry 4-4-4 B. McCall 5
- 3. 3010 AFRICAN PEARL (F) J. Berry 4-4-4 B. McCall 5
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Legal Appointments

LEGAL VACANCIES

As a result of internal reorganisation, the following vacancies have arisen in the Council's busy legal section, forming part of the Chief Executive Officer's Department. A full range of legal services is provided for elected Members and departmentally.

SOLICITORS (Up to £14,316 per annum)

We are seeking to make two appointments of admitted staff. The first, where good local government experience will be necessary will be involved in undertaking projects at the highest level, supervising the work of other qualified and unqualified staff and appearing as the Council's representative before Courts and at inquiries. The more junior post, attracting a salary commensurate with experience would be suitable for a less experienced solicitor seeking to expand his or her role in advisory work (including presenting reports to Committees) and supervision of staff involved in conveyancing and common law functions.

SENIOR LEGAL EXECUTIVE (Up to £12,369 per annum)

Previous local government experience, whilst desirable, is not essential for this post but the successful applicant must be capable of undertaking the more complex conveyancing and litigation matters, attending Committee meetings and supervising junior staff. He or she will act with a large degree of independence.

LEGAL EXECUTIVE (Up to £8,984 per annum)

To fill this vacancy we are seeking someone who has made significant progress towards L.L.E. qualifications and who can make a positive contribution in the litigation or conveyancing area.

TRAINEES

To ensure the future succession to the more senior posts in the section, we also wish to appoint, either immediately or at the end of the current academic year, two well qualified trainees. The first will undertake formal articles and must possess or be qualified to take the Law Society's final examination.

The second trainee post, which would be suitable for a well educated school leaver, will involve training to meet the requirements of the Institute of Legal Executives for which full support will be given.

The Council acknowledges the relatively high cost of housing in this area and accordingly offers housing, Mortgage and Relocation Expenses with these posts.

Write or telephone the Personnel and Management Services Officer, Manor House, Turners Hill, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire (SG9 2JX) for further particulars and an application form which should be returned by 12th April, 1984. Please state the post in which you are interested.

BOROUGH OF BROXBORNE

CLYDE & CO
have a vacancy in their London Office for a

Young Solicitor for Reinsurance Litigation

They require a Solicitor, newly qualified or with up to 2 years' post-qualification experience, to join a team of lawyers dealing mainly with the investigation of complex international reinsurance disputes and the conduct of substantial litigation. Some incidental work will arise in the fields of shipping and transport generally. The work involves consideration of a wide variety of legal and commercial problems, and there will be opportunities for travel abroad. Preference will be given to candidates with a good academic record and experience in commercial litigation. The rewards and prospects are excellent.

Candidates should apply in confidence, detailing career progression and salary and quoting reference 2089 to Mrs. Indira Brown, Corporate Resourcing Group Limited, 6 Westminster Palace Gardens, Artillery Row, London SW1P 1RL. Telephone 01-222 5555

Corporate Resourcing Group

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TAX

Solicitor or Barrister

We wish to recruit an assistant or barrister of proven ability to join our Tax Department. The Department engages in all aspects of corporate and individual tax and tax planning work, and its members are required to possess adequate knowledge of the commercial and trust implications. There is a large element of international business and knowledge of a foreign language would be useful but is not essential.

It is important for applicants to have a sound academic record. Enthusiasm, flexibility, and the ability to work under pressure, individually or as part of a team, are also essential qualities. The ideal applicant is likely to be someone contemplating their first post qualification move. Consideration will be given to applicants who are members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants but now wish to pursue a legal career.

Age and experience will be reflected in the salary. Prospects of promotion within our firm are excellent.

Applications with full curriculum vitae should be sent in confidence to M. H. Charteris Black, Messrs. Simmons & Simmons, 14 Dominion Street, London, EC2M 2RJ.

SIMMONS & SIMMONS

CORPORATE LEGAL ADVISER

Commercial specialist for high technology environment

Wang (UK) is an outstandingly successful enterprise with sales turnover rapidly approaching the £100 million mark. The company's advanced office automation systems lead the world and the UK operation has recently been strengthened with the establishment of a Scottish manufacturing facility. A young but exceptionally able UK-qualified Solicitor is sought as legal

adviser to the company. The post reports to the Managing Director with functional links to both European and US headquarters. The individual must be able to counsel management in a broad range of legal disciplines including the preparation of sound commercial agreements, the handling of corporate and organisational matters and the interpretation of EEC and UK legislation.

He/she will, of course, be in a position to retain and manage external legal resources as required.

Applicants should have around 5 years' experience in the commercial department of a large private practice or in the legal department of a high technology company.

The remuneration package is substantial and intended to attract lawyers who are already very successful and well rewarded. Benefits include a company car, BUPA, pension, life assurance and stock purchase schemes.

Please send full career and personal details in strict confidence to: T. Edney, UK Personnel Manager, Wang (UK) Limited, Wang House, 681 London Road, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 4EA. Tel: 01-560 4191 or 01-847 1854 (24-hour answering service).

WANG

The Office Automation Computer People.

CAMBRIDGE

TWO YOUNG SOLICITORS

We offer good salaries & working conditions in the City Centre to solicitors, preferably with some post-admission experience. Litigation Heavy emphasis on matrimonial work, some advocacy.

Conveyancing Able/prepared to learn to deal with all types of property work. Please apply in writing: Christopher Evans, Vinters, St. George House, 1 Guild Hall Street, Cambridge CB2 3LX.

ZAIWALLA & CO.

Firm of Commercial Solicitors in Chancery Lane, specialising in shipping litigation, requires a qualified Solicitor with at least 2 years' post-qualification experience of Commercial/Shipping Law. Salary commensurate with experience.

Write with CV or telephone: ZAIWALLA & CO., 95a Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1DT. 01-831 7791. Ref: NM

CRIMINAL LAW ADVOCATE

Leo Abbe & Cohen seek young criminal law advocate preferably with experience but will consider recently qualified applicants. Excellent prospects for enthusiastic, hardworking lawyer.

Applications in strict confidence to: Jonathan Evans, 40 Churchill Way, Cardiff CF1 4SS.

SEYMOUR PERSONNEL CONSULTANT LTD

requires all categories of legal personnel to fill vacancies in and around the London area.

For further information telephone: 01-881 8033 or write, including cv to: Seymour House, 44 High Street, Chaydon, Surrey.

WC2 Solicitors

Have immediate vacancy for Assistant Solicitor within busy general practice. Preferably with one to two years experience. Salary neg.

Telephone: 01-242 8431

also on page 30

Solicitor

Company and Commercial

The company and commercial department of this substantial and long established Edinburgh firm has greatly increased its institutional work in recent years. The firm seeks to recruit a solicitor with some years' relevant professional experience obtained in Scotland or elsewhere with a view to partnership and would consider an English solicitor prepared to pass the necessary examinations to qualify in Scotland.

Candidates should be about 25 to 30 years of age. Initial salary by agreement up to c. £15,000.

Please write in confidence with full career details to A.W.B. Thomson, as adviser to the firm, Selection Thomson Limited, 115 Mount Street, London W1Y 5HD or 15 North Claremont Street, Glasgow G3 7NR.

Selection Thomson

London and Glasgow



HONG KONG

LITIGATION & City rate+

Young solicitors newly to 3 yrs. admitted with experience of litigation gained in articles and subsequently are sought by a leading Hong Kong practice who are associated with a larger City firm. There is room for those with general experience or with specialised experience of commercial, banking or insurance litigation or running-down cases. If offering general experience then procedural knowledge must be good.

The terms and conditions of employment should prove attractive to any solicitor working in London or elsewhere in the U.K. and will include good basic salary, worthwhile bonus, substantial rent subsidy, generous leave terms, medical scheme and travel allowance.

Interviews in London by Hong Kong partners shortly.

To apply: quote ref: C.94 to Reuter Simkin Ltd., 26-28 Bedford Row, London, WC1R 4EJ. Tel: 01-405-6852.

REUTER SIMKIN
RECRUITMENT

PROPERTY PARTNERSHIP

£50,000 - £90,000+

Substantial and long established practice seek to strengthen their property department by the introduction of a senior property lawyer to their partnership. Specific skills in dealing with institutional clients are sought.

Applications will be treated in the strictest confidence and no disclosure will be made to our client without specific consent. Please quote Ref: RM/C.93 when applying.

Reuter Simkin Ltd. 26-28 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4HE. Tel: 01-405 6852/24. Fax: 01-405 3677.

REUTER SIMKIN
RECRUITMENT

Group Lawyer

Property Emphasis

£25,000 to £27,500 + excellent benefits

For a highly successful, listed group in London, with a substantial property development and investment portfolio and further interests in a variety of other sectors.

The appointee, assisted by a corporate legal department, will initially concentrate upon the property activities. We therefore invite applications from solicitors, aged 34-42, with particular experience in conveyancing, gained at a senior level either in practice or within commerce/industry. This is an important position within a major group and only high-calibre individuals need apply.

Salary is negotiable as quoted and benefits include a company car, share option scheme, non-contributory pension and, after a qualifying period, profit-sharing.

Please write in complete confidence, quoting reference 1759/T and enclosing comprehensive career details, to: N.P. Halsey, Executive Selection Division, Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., 165 Queen Victoria St. London EC4V 3PD.

PEAT MARWICK

REYNOLDS PORTER CHAMBERLAIN

LITIGATION

We have a vacancy in our Professional Indemnity Department for a Solicitor or Barrister. The successful applicant will probably have been qualified for less than 3 years but will have experience of High Court litigation and the ability to handle a substantial number of matters simultaneously. Previous direct experience in the field of Professional Indemnity Insurance is desirable but not essential.

Starting salary will be commensurate with age and experience.

Please write with full details of education and experience to:

Colin P. Ellis Esquire, Partnership Secretary,
REYNOLDS PORTER CHAMBERLAIN,
Chichester House, 278-282 High Holborn,
London, WC1V 7HA.

Consumer Adviser

If you have recently qualified in civil law and are looking for a job which entails putting your knowledge to practical use, you could be the ideal consumer adviser we need to join our young team of legal advisers. You should have an interest in consumer affairs, the patience to sort out problems, and some office experience.

Consumer Advisers handle the consumer cases submitted to us by members of our Which? Personal Service, and give advice on a variety of general consumer questions including those arising from the Association's work and publications. They work under pressure but the wide variety of problems handled makes the job interesting.

Salary around £8,250. Benefits include 28 days annual holiday, LV's, pension and free life assurance schemes, interest-free season ticket loan.

Please apply in writing with full cv to Personnel Manager, Consumers' Association, 14 Buckingham Street, London WC2.

Which?

SOLICITOR

North West London

We wish to appoint a young personable and energetic Solicitor to undertake Commercial Residential and associated work in an expanding commercially minded practice. The ideal applicant will have at least 2 years' post-admission experience. Early partnership prospects are available.

Please reply to: Box 2183R The Times

Expanding City Firm

Requires recently qualified Solicitor with City experience to assist busy company department involved mainly, but not exclusively, in investment work in the unquoted sector. Attractive and competitive salary. Apply in writing with CV to: Miss M. Parnborough, Hill Dickinson and Co., 100 Broad Street, London, EC2A 7LP.

SALING COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LII/SL in Law

The Law Division teaches on a wide range of courses including law and other subjects. The person appointed to this post would have a major role in the development of the Law Division and will be responsible for the recruitment and training of students for the Law Division. The post is suitable for a person with a law degree and relevant experience. The post is suitable for a person with a law degree and relevant experience. The post is suitable for a person with a law degree and relevant experience.

WEST END SOLICITORS

Requires recently qualified solicitor for commercial work, predominantly in the Entertainment industry. Must have experience in general commercial matters but experience in the entertainment industry not essential.

Apply with CV to: Box 2445H, The Times

Conveyancing Solicitor

We wish to recruit a Solicitor for our newly formed Conveyancing Section situated in Birmingham. The Section will handle the conveyancing requirements of Bank Staff moved at its request.

The ideal candidate should have two/three years post admission experience in general conveyancing (but recently admitted solicitors will be considered).

The successful candidate will work with the most up-to-date computer and electronic funds transfer systems.

He or she will be offered an attractive salary and initially given a two year contract.

Please write in the first instance giving details of age, qualifications, experience and present salary to: H. G. Reynolds Esq., Legal Department, National Westminster Bank PLC, 20 Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1EJ.

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Unique Publishing Opportunity

We are a successful and rapidly expanding professional publishing company. Our primary areas of interest are taxation, banking, accounting, law and financial services for both domestic and international markets.

We now need an experienced Managing Editor preferably, though not essentially, with a background in one of the above fields. The person appointed will report directly to the Publishing Director and take control of a significant proportion of the company's major information services as well as being closely involved in the development of new projects.

Candidates should have demonstrable managerial skills in the editorial/acquisition areas of professional publishing. Particularly useful would be experience with loose-leaf services, journals or newsletters.

A most important feature of the job will be the co-ordination of the outside teams of editors and authors, often senior professional figures, who create our publications. The person we are looking for will, therefore, have an understanding of the nature of the areas in which we publish and be capable of dealing with outside contacts at the highest level.

Please write enclosing CV and stating present salary to: The Publishing Director, Professional Publishing Limited, Albemarle House, 27-31 Chancery Cross Road, LONDON WC2E 8AU

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Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

- 6.00 Ceefax AM.**
6.30 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Salina Scott. News from Fern Britton at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hour; sport at 6.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; television preview at 8.55; a review of the morning papers at 9.15 and 9.18; horoscopes at 8.55. Glynis Christian's culinary advice and Alison Mitchell's financial matters between 8.30 and 9.00.
9.00 The Craft of the Weaver. Part four deals with tapestry (P). 9.25 Ceefax. 10.30 Play School, presented by Chloe Ashcroft (P). 10.55 Ceefax.
12.30 News with Richard Whitmore and Frances Covelade. The weather prospects come from Bill Giles. 12.57 Regional news (London and only). Financial headlines with subtitles. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One. Anna Ford talks to Dirk Bogarde and Kaffe Fassett launches the Pebble Mill Heritage Tapestry. 1.45 Chock-a-Block (P).
2.00 Caught in Time. James Cameron introduces more amateur movies in the 20s and 30s (P). 2.20 Film: *Hollow Triumph* (1945) starring Joan Bennett. Ruthless criminal feeling from his murderous acquaintances assumes the identity of his girlfriend's boss. Directed by Steve Sekely.
3.40 Cartoon. Barney Bear. 3.48 Regional news (not London). 3.50 *Magical Roundabout* (P). 3.55 Play School, presented by Sheelagh Gilbey. 4.20 The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse (P). 4.25 Jackanory. Penelope Wilton reads part two of Barbara Sligh's *Carbanel*. 4.35 Charlie Brown (P). 5.00 Newsround.
5.10 Treasure Houses. The last of the series and Mark Curry goes behind the scenes at Glenelgh Palace.
5.40 Sixty Minutes includes news from Moira Stuart at 5.40.
6.40 Harry. With Russell on the stage of the Greenwood Theatre are the eccentric Kenny Everett and Katie Rabbett.
7.10 The District Nurse. The final episode of the tragedy of the coach crash stuns the community. A cottage hospital is a necessity and someone offers to finance the project as long as the person who runs the place is of sufficient high moral standard.
7.40 A Question of Sport. A test of sporting recall between two teams - one led by Bill Beaumont, the other by Emyl Hughes.
8.10 Dallas. The winner of the auction for the off-shore oil fields is announced and J. R. overhauls Sue Ellen in an incriminating conversation.
9.00 News with Sue Lawley.
9.25 Play: Under the Hammer. by Stephen Fagan. A behind-the-scenes comedy set in an auctioneer's office where the provenance of an antique painting threatens to disrupt an important auction. With Peter Vaughan, James Maxwell, Michael Aldridge and Peter Bayless. (See Choice).
9.35 You Can't Change the World. The experiences of Dr Paul McKown, a GP in Belfast's dockland for the past 33 years.
1.10 Football. Coverage of the Courage Soccer Six tournament in Birmingham.
1.55 News headlines and weather.

tv-am

- 6.25 Good Morning Britain.** presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. News with a light-hearted touch at 6.25, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; sport at 6.35 and 7.35; consumer affairs at 6.40 and 8.45; exercises at 6.50 and 9.15; the day's anniversaries at 7.05 and 8.05; a guest in the Spotlight at 7.20; cartoon at 7.25; guest of the day, Flora Hughes, at 7.40; pop news at 7.50; pop video at 7.55; inside Johnny Spaight's house at 8.10; video report at 8.35; Rustie Lee's cookery tips 9.03.
ITV/LONDON
9.25 Thames news headlines at 9.25. For Schools: Elementary arithmetic. 9.45 Describing for young visually impaired. 10.04 Bringing goods in from the manufacturer to the customer. 10.21 A German family on holiday in Austria. 10.43 The mechanisms of evolution. 11.08 Ways with words. 11.25 How water is processed. 11.38 Holding in France.
12.00 Cockleshell Bay. Seaside adventures of the Cockle twins 12.10. *Radiohead*. Learning with puppets (P). 12.30 The Sullivan.
1.00 News. 1.20 Thames news. 1.30 A Plus. 2.00 Crown Court. Pakt Basher. A young Pakistani is accused of injuring a 10-year-old child. The Pakistani claims he was defending his uncle who was being attacked by the youth and his friends 2.30 Comedy Tonight. Highlights from the acts of top club stand-up comedians. 3.00 Mr and Mrs. Quiz game for married couples. 3.30 Miracles Take London.
4.00 Cockleshell Bay. A repeat of the programme shown at noon. 4.15 *Radiohead*. Cartoon series 4.20 On Safari. Studio adventures with Christopher Biggins and guests, Susan King and Billy Dainty. 4.45 CBTV. News, views and ideas for young people. 5.15 *Emmerdale Farm*. Jackie is shocked when he is drawn into some shady dealings by Tom Merrick.
5.45 News 5.00 Thames news.
5.20 Help News of a self help group for mothers with babies in young people. 5.15 *Emmerdale Farm*. Jackie is shocked when he is drawn into some shady dealings by Tom Merrick.
6.30 Crossroads. Diane Hunter has a showdown with Colin Sandie; Lisa Walters is the recipient of an unwelcome present; and James Wilcox faces a dilemma.
6.55 Reporting London Presented by Michael Barratt. Graham Addick examines the Post Office's plans to close a thousand sub-post offices throughout the country over the next few years and what this will mean to pensioners.
7.30 Give Us A Clue. Una Stubbs, Katharine Barker, Michael Portner and David Scales attempt to outguess Lionel Blair, Aiden J. Harvey, Willie Rushon and Vidal Sassoon.
8.00 The Sweeney. Whilst tracking down a villain, Inspector Pagan narrowly escapes a serious injury and is forced to admit that he is feeling his middle age (P).
9.00 The Jewel in the Crown. Episode 19 and a sudden death in the town of Mirat upsets the European settlement in the Great Indian Desert.
10.00 News.
10.30 The Food War. (See Choice).
11.20 The Lykes Men. Adventure serial set in the Greek islands.
12.00 Night Thoughts from the Rev. Bill Todd.



James Maxwell and Michael Aldridge (BBC1, 9.25)

UNDER THE HAMMER (BBC 1, 9.25pm). Stephen Fagan's comedy about the incipiently frantic fringe of the art world, has a hidden joke in the title. And the words "under the hammer" and "you get the Russian" dimension that assumes a greater degree of importance as the climax approaches. A Van Gogh, put up for sale by the Russians at a London gallery is quite possibly a fake. Confirm it and the gallery loses face, as surely as the Van Gogh. The hammering (not to mention the auctioneer) from the Russians, if the awful truth gets out, could unleash a cultural cold war. This is a wholly delightful and dotty play, most enriched by the performances of James Maxwell

and Michael Aldridge as the gallery chiefs. Peter Vaughan as the involuntary vandal, and Peter Bayless as the picture restorer who used to cook up Dutch masters in this over-the-top comedy.

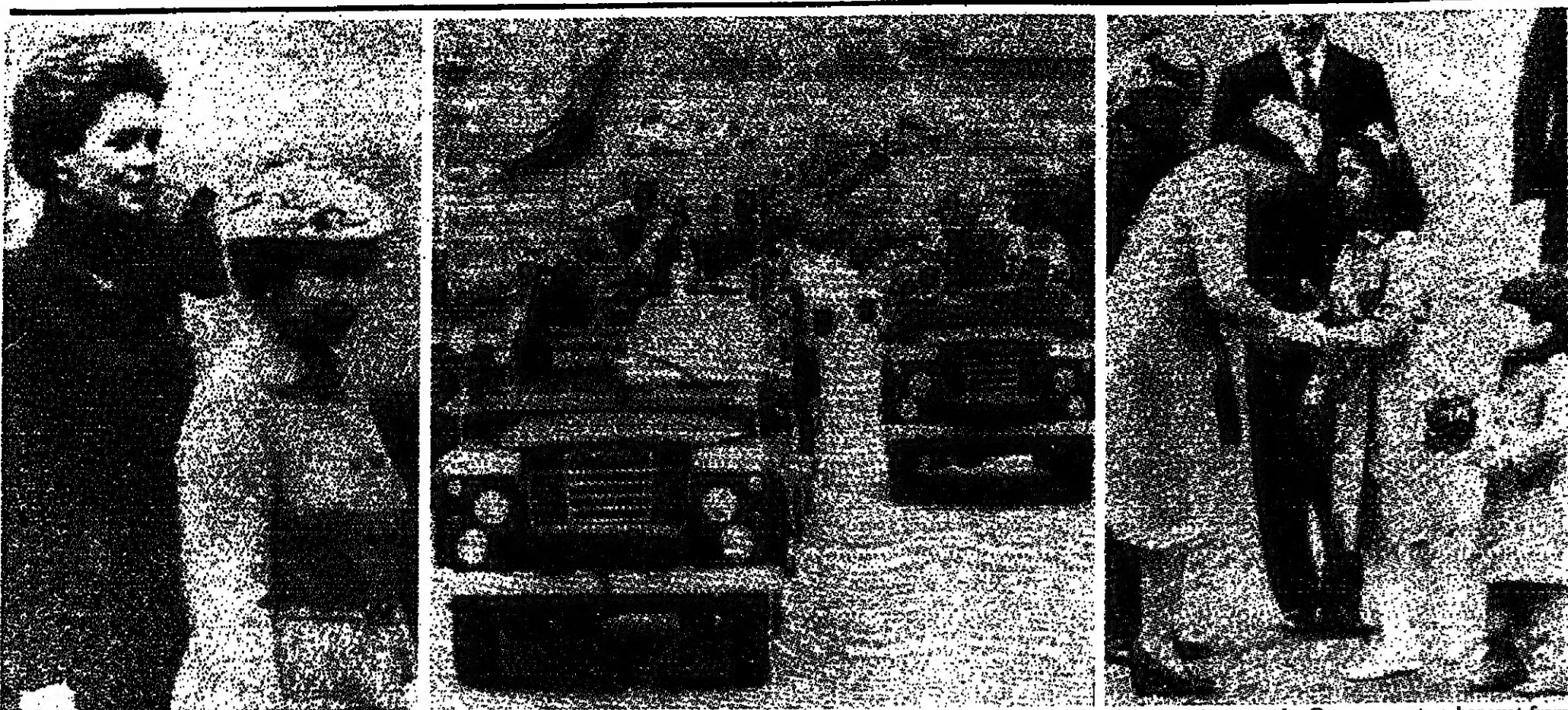
Anglia Television's documentary THE FOOD WAR (TV, 10.30pm) has Washington and Brussels baring their teeth at one another over a mountain of grain, across hillsides of butter and lakes of milk. To anyone not versed in the ways of political economy, it all adds up to farce. But, as in all the best farces, tragedy is waiting in the wings, and in tonight's film tragedy is represented in the familiar pictures of hungry eyes in drought areas like southern Africa. The Food War supplies the context

BBC 2

- 6.05 Open University: Modern Art.** 6.30 *Sulphuric Acid*. 6.55 *Biological Abstracts*. 7.20 *Energy: A Question of Balance*. 7.45 *Genetics*. 8.10 *Melosis*. Ends at 8.10.
9.00 Ceefax.
9.25 Daytime on Two. India from 1935 to independence and partition in 1947. 9.48 *Maths on Two*. 10.10 Part ten of *The Boy from Space*. 10.35 Britain's changing coastline. 11.05 Homes with a difference. 11.17 Brazil's progress. For which? 11.40 Traders of the Middle Ages. 12.00 *Ceefax*. 12.35 The nonconformists of Japan. 1.05 *Maths*. 1.17 *Science*. 1.30 *Part*. 1.38 *Part*. 1.40 *Part*. 1.42 *Part*. 1.44 *Part*. 1.46 *Part*. 1.48 *Part*. 1.50 *Part*. 1.52 *Part*. 1.54 *Part*. 1.56 *Part*. 1.58 *Part*. 2.00 *Part*. 2.02 *Part*. 2.04 *Part*. 2.06 *Part*. 2.08 *Part*. 2.10 *Part*. 2.12 *Part*. 2.14 *Part*. 2.16 *Part*. 2.18 *Part*. 2.20 *Part*. 2.22 *Part*. 2.24 *Part*. 2.26 *Part*. 2.28 *Part*. 2.30 *Part*. 2.32 *Part*. 2.34 *Part*. 2.36 *Part*. 2.38 *Part*. 2.40 *Part*. 2.42 *Part*. 2.44 *Part*. 2.46 *Part*. 2.48 *Part*. 2.50 *Part*. 2.52 *Part*. 2.54 *Part*. 2.56 *Part*. 2.58 *Part*. 3.00 *Ceefax*.
3.10 Bicycles: Framed for Success. An Open University programme that compares two bicycle frames - one mass-produced, the other hand-made for the export.
5.35 News summary with subtitles.
6.00 Film: Charlie Chan in Rio (1941) starring Sidney Toler as the oriental detective. In Brazil helping the Rio de Janeiro police solve the mystery of two murders, Chan is called to use all his guile when one of the killers is murdered by a victim's wife. Directed by Harry Lachman.
6.40 Tickers Luck. Episode three and Tucker is mobile once again.
7.05 Sparks. Three more stories of young endeavour.
7.30 Jane Wai-time adventures of the Daily Mirror's star cartoon heroine.
7.40 Top Gear presented by William Woollard with Frank Page from the London Design Centre, the venue for the Drive Forward exhibition that looks at motoring in the 21st century.
8.10 Chronicle: Bath Waters. A documentary that follows the work of Professor Annelle as she examines how the Romans tackled the problems of controlling Bath's hot springs.
9.00 Marti Caine. Her guests tonight include Randy Crawford, Derek Griffiths and The King's Singers.
9.50 Arena. Jerry Lee Lewis. Highlights of a concert given by the rock and roll singer last May.
10.40 Newsnight.
11.25 We Bring You Live Pictures. The second of four programmes, presented by John Craven, that trace the growth of the BBC's outside broadcasting section. Ends at 12.00.
11.45 Ceefax.

CHANNEL 4

- 5.00 People's Court.** Former Judge Warner rules on the cases of the week that hit the news and the courts. 5.30 *People's Court*. 5.55 *People's Court*. 6.20 *People's Court*. 6.45 *People's Court*. 7.10 *People's Court*. 7.35 *People's Court*. 8.00 *People's Court*. 8.25 *People's Court*. 8.50 *People's Court*. 9.15 *People's Court*. 9.40 *People's Court*. 10.05 *People's Court*. 10.30 *People's Court*. 11.00 *People's Court*. 11.25 *People's Court*. 11.50 *People's Court*. 12.15 *People's Court*. 12.40 *People's Court*. 13.05 *People's Court*. 13.30 *People's Court*. 14.00 *People's Court*. 14.25 *People's Court*. 14.50 *People's Court*. 15.15 *People's Court*. 15.40 *People's Court*. 16.05 *People's Court*. 16.30 *People's Court*. 16.55 *People's Court*. 17.20 *People's Court*. 17.45 *People's Court*. 18.10 *People's Court*. 18.35 *People's Court*. 19.00 *People's Court*. 19.25 *People's Court*. 19.50 *People's Court*. 20.15 *People's Court*. 20.40 *People's Court*. 21.05 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Jordan welcome. Queen Noor stands with the Queen at the airport welcoming ceremony; a convoy of Beduin guards speeds the Queen to Amman; the Queen accepts a bouquet from Princess Haya, daughter of King Hussein, and his previous Queen Alia while Prince Hamzah, son of the King and Queen Noor, waits his turn.

Duarte claims victory

From John Carlin
San Salvador

The moderate candidate, Señor José Napoleón Duarte, yesterday claimed victory in the El Salvador presidential election but admitted he had probably fallen short of the overall majority needed. A runoff is likely in May with the fervent anti-communist, Major Roberto D'Aubuisson.

On the basis of a sample of 170,000 votes, Señor Duarte said his Christian Democrat party had won 45 per cent, the Republican National Alliance (Arena) 27 per cent and the establishment National Conciliation Party 20 per cent.

Major D'Aubuisson, the Arena candidate, remained uncharacteristically silent after the voting, indicating Señor Duarte's initial estimates to be accurate. The final result will not be known until tomorrow.

Because of guerrilla and other disruption, it is believed that between a third and a half of those eligible were unable to vote.

According to Salvadorean law, the winning presidential candidate must claim more than 50 per cent of the vote to take office.

Photographs, page 7

Tisdall tells why she leaked memo

Continued from page 1

Asked why she had taken it in person, she replied, "Yes, it was a bit risky, but I took it round on the evening of October 21 and I was aware that there was a big CND march planned for the next morning and to have the full impact of the memo needed to be published in the paper on the Saturday morning."

She said her views on ministers' proper scrutiny by Parliament and on matters concerning Britain's nuclear armament were her own business. The programme committee said the paper published the story in time for the march and later the text of the memo. Then, in a court case, it was made to hand back the actual photocopy. Miss Tisdall resumed the story.

"The internal investigation then knew from which photocopy the document concerned had come. Fortunately a lot of people use that photocopy, myself included."

"Then they handed things over to the police, and then things really started hotting up. And we were all fingerprinted and then we were all by one taken for questioning at Scotland Yard."

"They asked me my views on my political opinions and they asked me questions about what I had done on that evening, and what I had done at work during that day."

Interviewer: Did you feel they were getting fairly close to home?

Yes.

That interview, on Friday January 6 this year, was the turning point.

Sarah Tisdall: I made the decision that on the Monday morning I would go in and give myself up to the police, because at that stage I still had not told my parents and the rest of the family what I had done.

So I told them over the weekend, which wasn't a pleasant thing to have to do, and then I went into the police on the Monday morning.

Asked what were the major factors that had influenced her, Miss Tisdall said:

"One, that things were obviously hotting up, and I didn't really want to be dragged out of bed at 4 o'clock one morning by a busy great policeman. I didn't want my parents to find out what I had done through the police."

"It would be best that I tell them and I didn't want my colleagues to have to go through what I had to go through that Friday afternoon."

She then answered a series of questions for World in Action on her views on current issues, saying the cuts in education, and spending large amounts of money on weapons were not necessarily bad.

"I was having to work longer hours, my colleagues were having to work longer hours, the diplomatic service is having to cover more posts with less people, and when the results of that happened - the

lack of consular care, lack of commercial facilities - bounce back, it is always the Foreign Office's fault, the Foreign Office has got it wrong, again, not the Foreign Office has got it wrong again because it is not being given the money to have all the people necessary to do a proper job."

Interviewer: So you were being pushed hard for no very real objective?

Miss Tisdall: Yes, other than just it's not cost effective.

She was then asked about The Guardian's action in handing the memo back to the Government.

Miss Tisdall: I still don't think they should have handed it back, but that's a personal opinion because it resulted in my arrest.

What do you think The Guardian should have done? - Well, I think they should have broken the law. Now that's a fairly hairy thing to say on television. I think they should have destroyed the document and then have told the Government that they had destroyed the document some time previously.

would you leak the same kind of document again if you had the chance? - Yes.

What do you feel about the possibility of going to prison? - It is a possibility. I think it would be rather absurd to send me to prison for leaking that document which is rather to be a state secret.

It is a party political document essentially. I don't feel I damaged national security in any great way by releasing that document with prison - it would be easy but you just have to grin and bear it.

Senior ministers yesterday

said that the Government, by the decision to prosecute, had shown the extreme seriousness with which it regarded the case. That having been done it was appropriate that the case should be heard at the Central Criminal Court.

Reacting to the charge of Mr Gerald Kaufman, the shadow home secretary, that the Attorney General's decision had been designed to turn the Tisdall case into a "show trial", senior ministers said that the Government would have been even more strongly attacked if the case had been heard at a magistrates' court and a heavy sentence imposed.

The Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill, yesterday rejected a Labour plea for an emergency debate on the decision to prosecute Miss Tisdall.

Mr John Ward, general secretary of the First Division Association, which represents top civil servants, said yesterday the case strengthened his belief that the government should increase the flow of official information.

Body moved

The body of Miss Helen Smith, the nurse who died five years ago after an illegal drinking party in Saudi Arabia, has been transferred to a sealed casket after complaints from staff at Leeds mortuary.

Advocate in court with no wig

Continued from page 1

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On the other hand, he disclosed, the union trustees wished the fund to disinvest itself of a holding in a company which was found to trade in pornographic and violent video films.

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Mr learned friend, a model of courtesy and reason before the bench, then strode from the Royal Courts of Justice in a more characteristic impromptu press conference on the subject of pit closures.

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Continued from page 1

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Letter from Moscow

Fiddlers on the Socialist bus

The Russians are an honest and scrupulously law-abiding people - in theory. According to Marxist-Leninist ideology, crime is the product of bourgeois society and the internal contradictions of capitalism. Yet examples of violent, criminal or merely anti-social behaviour keep recurring and in some cases are on the increase, much to the distress of the authorities, who are turning to sociologists to explain why a "hangover from the past" is still clinging on rather than obediently withering away.

Take the question of bus fares. When you board a Moscow bus you do not pay the driver, or a conductor (there are none). Instead you force your way through the crush to a machine, pop a five kopeck piece in, turn a handle and tear off a ticket from the roll. Trolleybuses and trams are cheaper at four and three kopecks respectively, but the same "honest system" applies. It worked well enough in the beginning, but in today's more lax atmosphere an increasing number of Soviet citizens either cannot be bothered to fight their way to the ticket-machine or forget to pay the fare accidentally on purpose.

Older people tend to pass coins down the custom said to be derived from the communal passing of candles toward the altar in an Orthodox church. But even this is becoming less frequent, and youngsters especially take a cynical view of fare paying - not least because the ticket machines are poorly maintained and the ticket rolls often run out and are not replaced.

All of which might seem fairly trivial, except that according to Moscow transport officials the city loses about 14m rubles a year - over £12m - in unpaid fares. Moscow is better off than other Soviet cities - it is supposed to be Russia's showpiece to the world, and for that matter to visitors from the provinces - but it cannot afford to lose revenue.

One official said in *Komsomolskaya Pravda* that unpaid fares last year could have provided 300 new buses (most are imported from Hungary) to replace the efficient but antiquated bone-shakers which at present ferry Muscovites about at hugely subsidised costs.

But fare avoidance is also

worrying because it suggests a steep decline in civic consciousness and an equally sharp rise in "irresponsible" attitudes to public property and the state, especially among the young.

It is still safe to walk the streets at night alone, and Moscow is a model of sobriety (and dullness) compared to Western cities. Both petty and serious crime are at a low level. But there has been an erosion of the civic duty and good works mentality which is supposed to underpin socialist society, and a corresponding growth of cynicism.

Muscovites still turn out to provide a day's free labour on a *subotnik* - a Saturday devoted to voluntary labour for the community - and another *subotnik* is due next month. But in many cases all it amounts to is a few hours leaning on a broom and chatting to the neighbours while cleaning up a local street.

One socially useful custom which persists is the collection of waste paper for recycling with the reward of a bag of books as the incentive. At the moment, 60 kilograms of paper (called *makulatura* in Russian) buys you a four-volume edition of works by Jack London, mistakenly thought by Russians to be one of the most widely popular Western authors of all time (for his socialist leanings rather than his tales of man and nature in Alaska).

Even *makulatura* is open to abuse, however, as the paper Rural Life recently revealed.

It described how a 30-year-old rowing coach in Saratov - the kind of fine young man who ought to be a shining example of socialist morality - had taken to stealing newspapers and magazines systematically from mail boxes in the lobbies of blocks of flats. He got away with it because he was well dressed and quite a able, and accumulated quite a collection of highly prized books (many of them unavailable in the shops) before being caught red-handed.

As far as fiddlers on the buses are concerned, the fine for non-payment is 10-ruble from one rouble to three.

As for serious crime, such as mugging or rape, sociologists say it is committed mostly by those from low income groups.

Richard Owen.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Princess of Wales, Patron of the Welsh National Opera, opens the new Rehearsal Studios, John Street, Cardiff, 12.

Princess Margaret, as Colonel-in-Chief, visits Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps at Aldershot on Queen Alexandra's Day, 11.25.

The Duke of Gloucester visits the Institute of Hydrology, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, 10.15.

New exhibitions

One Day in the Life of A Picture by Anthony Green, Perth Museum and Art Gallery, Perth, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (ends April 28).

The Lost Rockers of David Octobry, B M Film Gallery, Walsall Museum and Art Gallery, Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 4.45, closed Sun (ends April 14).

Goat in Art - goats as featured in heraldry and the collection of the

Marquis of Tavistock, of porcelain, glass, bronze, Woburn Abbey, Woburn, Beds, Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun (and Bank hols) 11 to 5.30 (ends May 31).

Music

Organ Recital by Ronald Frost, St Anne's Church, Manchester, 12.45.

Organ recital by Stephen Cleobury, Leeds Town Hall, Leeds, 1.05.

"India" (with illustrations), by J. Weir, Broomfield Library, Tapscottville Rd, Sheffield, 8.15.

Exhibitions in progress

Home's Heroes - Mycenae Greece: Change in the Inner City; Museum & Art Gallery, Chamberlain Sq., Birmingham Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 10 to 4 (ends April 30).

Deities of Roman Cotswolds; Corinium Museum, Cirencester, Tues to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (closed Mon, ends Sept 30).

Last chance to see

"The Shell That Is - an exhibition; Poole Arts Centre, Kingsland Rd, Poole, Dorset Mon to Sat 11-8 (ends Sat).

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Rates Bill, report, first day.

Lords (3.30): Telecommunications Bill, third reading. Tenants Rights Act (Scotland) Bill, committee.

Liverpool air link

Wardair, the Canadian airline, will begin operating flights between Speke airport, Liverpool, and Toronto on May 9. The twice-weekly flights will initially be every Wednesday, but in June Liverpool airport will be the only one in the North-west operating flights to Canada on a Saturday.

Turtle in soup

The Marine Turtle Newsletter, a unique learned publication whose title is self-explanatory, may have to cease publication shortly for lack of funds. Would-be donors are asked to contact Dr Nicholas Mrosovsky, Department of Zoology, University of Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1A1 Canada.

Approved products

The 1984 List of Approved Products for Farmers and Growers is now available, which lists about 700 crop-protection products and their uses, approved under the Agricultural Chemicals Approval Scheme, and also officially approved brands of insecticides, fungicides, herbicides and related chemicals. To order by post, send £4.75 with your order to the Ministry of Agriculture (Publications), Lion House, Willowbank Trading Estate, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 2PP. Price £4.25 from HMSO bookshops.

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TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending March 26

- 1 Duty Free Yorkshire, 16.5m
- 2 Coronation Street (Wed) Granada, 16.5m
- 3 Minder Thames, 16.25m
- 4 Coronation Street (Mon) Granada, 15.75m
- 5 This is Your Life Thames, 15.35m
- 6 3-2-1 Yorkshire, 13.65m
- 7 Tony Hawks Theatre, 13.4m
- 8 Shroud for a Nightingale Anglia, 12.50m
- 9 The 100th Hour, 12.25m
- 10 Live From Her Majesty's LWT, 12.20m

In English:

- 1 Jan's Flat 12, 12.00m
- 2 Some Mothers Do Awe Em, 11.25m
- 3 Coronation Street (Mon) Granada, 10.5m
- 4 Dallas, 10.15m
- 5 A Question of Sport, 10.10m
- 6 The 100th Hour, 9.25m
- 7 Dynasty, 8.85m
- 8 Top of the Pops, 8.75m
- 9 The 100th Hour, 8.75m
- 10 Holiday, 8.50m

In Gaelic:

- 1 Beof of Paul Daniels, 8.75m
- 2 The 100th Hour, 8.50m
- 3 Sands of Time, 8.50m
- 4 Call My Bluff, 8.25m
- 5 The 100th Hour, 8.25m
- 6 The 100th Hour, 8.25m
- 7 The 100th Hour, 8.25m
- 8 The 100th Hour, 8.25m
- 9 The 100th Hour, 8.25m
- 10 The 100th Hour, 8.25m

Broadcast television: The average weekly figures for audiences at peak times (with figures in parentheses showing the rest of the week) for viewers for at least eight minutes.

BBC 2 Breakfast Time: Mon to Fri 1.4m (4.9m), Sat 1.7m (4.2m), Sun 1.7m (4.2m).

Broadcasters' Audience Research Board

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	0.58	1.50
Austria Sch	27.70	26.10
Belgium Fr	82.25	78.25
Canada \$	1.89	1.82
Denmark Kr	13.30	13.60
Finland Mk	8.47	8.07
France Fr	11.94	11.44
Germany DM	3.88	3.70
Greece Dr	160.00	150.00
Hong Kong \$	11.54	10.94
Ireland Pt	1.28	1.22
Italy Lira	240.00	230.00
Japan Yen	339.00	323.00
Netherlands Gld	4.41	4.19
Norway Kr	11.32	10.72
Portugal Esc	197.00	187.00
Spain Ptas	1.96	1.82
Sweden Kr	218.00	209.00
Switzerland Fr	3.23	3.06
USA \$	1.48	1.43
Yugoslavia Dnr	183.00	173.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 344.0, London: The FT index closed down 1.9 at 889.6.

Roads

Midlands, East Angles: A34: Contrail on Stone - Newville road at Stratford, Staffordshire. A429: Roadworks on Wellesbourne - Slow road at Halford, Warwickshire. A12: Contrail on Bentley on Ipswich to Colchester Road, Suffolk.

Wales and West: A381: Single-lane traffic in Highgate Street, Newton Abbot, Devon; temporary signals. A377: Temporary traffic lights on Exeter - Barnstaple road, in Bonhay Road, Exeter. A40: Closures on Abergavenny - Monmouth road, north of Gibraltar Tunnels.

North: A6: Traffic lights in Preston Road, Whitele Woods, north of Chorley, Lancashire. A696: Lane closures on Abergavenny - Monmouth road, north of Gibraltar Tunnels.

Switching of traffic lanes in Snow Hill area, Wakefield, delays.

South: A729: Temporary lights and delays in Argyle Street, Edinburgh, west of A701. Glasgow: With restrictions in Argyle Street between Dumbarton Road and Finnieston Street. A74: Northbound carriageway closed from Leamington, Lancashire; two-way traffic southbound.

Information supplied by the AA

Anniversaries

Births: Alfred de Vigny, poet, Lohere, France, 1797; Wilhelm Conrad von Roentgen, physicist, discoverer of X-rays, Nobel laureate 1901, Lennep, Germany, 1845; Heinrich Mann, novelist, Lübeck, Germany, 1871; Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, architect, Aachen, 1886. Deaths: James VI of Scotland (from 1567) and James I of Great Britain (1603-25), Theobald, Hertfordshire, 1625; Giovanni Teopilo, painter, Madrid, 1770; Sir George Gilbert Scott, architect (Albert Memorial, St Pancras Hotel), London, 1890. Birthdays: Rochdale, Lancashire, 1889.

The papers

Commenting on the budget crisis in the EEC, the New York Times says: "To most Americans, the Common Market's budget crisis seems as remote as rugby rankings in New Zealand. The details are indeed petty: only a few hundred million dollars separate the feuding parties. What's worrisome is that the budget stalemate threatens a greater malaise. European nations, stressed by long recession, are becoming increasingly reluctant to sacrifice for the cause of unity. The crisis may be resolved when the Common Market's foreign ministers meet this week. But the fact that it has dragged on for a year, derailing three summit conferences, suggests that the member nations have grown complacent."

The Washington Post commented on European budgetary disarray: "The real question is whether the British really want to stay in the Common Market and at what price and whether the Continentals really want them to stay." Asking how European is Britain's paper observed that five years of trying to negotiate a better deal for Britain had "brought out all the intrusiveness and abrasiveness in Mrs Thatcher."

Weather forecast

Pressure will remain low over Britain. Most districts will have further showers or longer outbreaks of rain, particularly in northern parts where snow is likely on hills.

6am to midnight

London, SE, central S, SW England, East Angles, E, W Midlands, Channel Islands, S Wales: Showers with sunny or clear intervals. Perhaps rain and fog patches early and late in places. Wind south: west light or moderate. A little below normal; max temp 8-10C (45-50C).

E, NW, central N, NE England, N Wales: Showers, perhaps longer outbreaks of rain, rather cloudy throughout; wind mainly SW light; max temp 6-7C (43-45F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Northumbria, Lancashire, two-way traffic southbound.

Information supplied by the AA

Sea passages: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind fresh decreasing light to moderate; sea moderating becoming slight. S George's Channel; Irish Sea: Wind SW light or moderate; sea slight.

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Continuing rather cold and unsettled.

Sun rises: 6.47 am, 7.26 pm

Moon rises: 5.36 am, 1.48 pm

New Moon: April 1.

Lighting-up time

London 7.56 pm to 6.15 am

Midland 8.05 pm to 6.35 am

Wales 8.05 pm to 6.22 am

Perthshire 8.17 pm to 6.37 am

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud: 1, fair: 2, rain: 3, sun: 4

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